

Hunting & Trapping in Virginia

July 2007 - June 2008
Regulations and Information



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This pamphlet is for general information. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia or the Game Department Regulation Manual. For answers to specific questions about hunting or trapping, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries nearest you.

www.dgif.virginia.gov

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If you have questions or need assistance, contact the office nearest you.

Richmond Headquarters

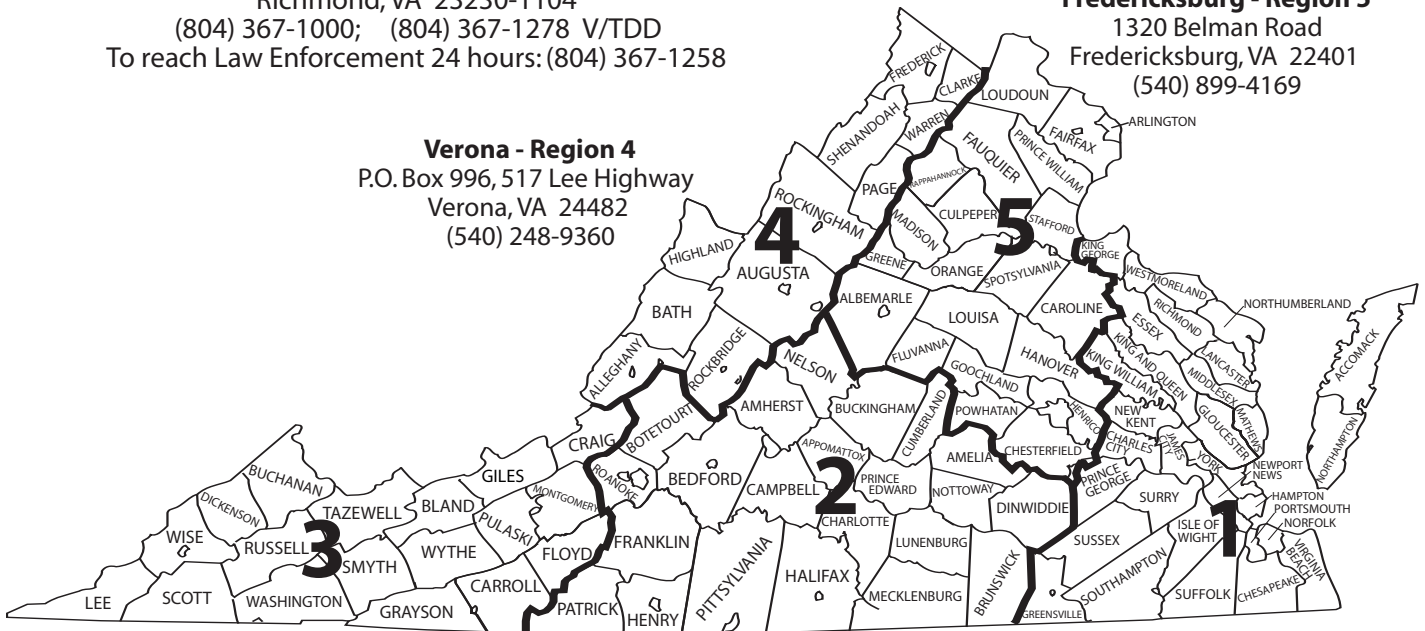
P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
(804) 367-1000; (804) 367-1278 V/TDD
To reach Law Enforcement 24 hours: (804) 367-1258

Fredericksburg - Region 5

1320 Belman Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 899-4169

Verona - Region 4

P.O. Box 996, 517 Lee Highway
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-9360



Marion - Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
(276) 783-4860

Forest - Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road
Forest, VA 24551-9223
(434) 525-7522

Charles City - Region 1

3801 John Tyler Memorial Hwy.
Charles City, VA 23030
(804) 829-6580

Additional Contacts

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Law Enforcement
804-771-2883
804-771-2280

U. S. Forest Service
George Washington and Jefferson Forest
Supervisor
540-265-5100

Virginia Department of Forestry
Charlottesville Office
434-977-6555

Department of Conservation and Recreation
Reservation Center
800-933-7275

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
757-247-2200
757-247-2292 VTDD

Report Wildlife Violations
1-800-237-5712

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Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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Mission Statement

*To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish
to maintain optimum populations of all species
to serve the needs of the Commonwealth;
to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife,
inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation;
to promote safety for persons and property in
connection with boating, hunting and fishing.*

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 2000, Arlington, VA 22203.

About the Department

Serving the outdoor public for 91 years, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continues to move forward with renewed vigor and an encouraging sense of accomplishment.

Thanks to the efforts of the Department's wildlife biologists and game wardens, the state boasts a deer population of nearly one million animals and the most liberal deer hunting seasons ever known in the Commonwealth. Last season hunters harvested over 200,000 deer. Turkey and bear populations are also higher than any time since people have been keeping such records.

It takes work to maintain a plentiful supply of wildlife. Multiple wildlife projects are ongoing, and hundreds of jobs happen every day that often go unnoticed. The Department maintains over 1,000 miles of road and keeps up with more than 5,000 informational signs, along with nearly 200,000 acres of land on 36 management areas that are kept open and in good condition for public use. The Department also works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service to help manage over one and a half million acres of wildlife habitat on National Forest lands in Virginia.

A big part of Virginia's wildlife abundance results from the work of Virginia game wardens. Wardens annually check over 54,000 hunters, more than 75,000 anglers, and at least 30,000 boaters as they patrol over 3 million miles annually. Effective July 1, 2007, Virginia's game wardens will have a new name. The sworn officers in the Law Enforcement Division of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will be called "conservation police officers." The Virginia General Assembly approved the change at their recent session. The name change is intended to clarify the authority of these officers who have full police powers and statewide jurisdiction.

Virginia's Hunter Education program is recognized as one of the best in the nation with more than 15,000 students certified each year. Hunter Education courses are taught free of charge throughout the Commonwealth by game wardens and over 700 volunteer instructors.

All of this work to keep wildlife abundant in Virginia is paid for by the hunters and anglers themselves. The Department receives the majority of its funds from hunting and fishing licenses and boat titling and registration fees.

Be sure to buy your hunting license before going afield. We wish you safe hunting.



Virginia's Wildlife Restoration Program and You

Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program. Virginia receives about \$5 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.

What's New For 2007-2008

Licenses

- The 2007 General Assembly passed legislation that added the crossbow license to the youth resident and non resident combination licenses at no additional cost and to the adult resident sportsman's hunting and fishing license increasing the fee for this license to \$119.
- The 2007 General Assembly passed legislation changing when the National Forest Stamp is valid: now valid for one year from the date of purchase.
- The 2007 General Assembly passed legislation changing when the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is valid: from one year from the date of purchase to being valid from July 1 to June 30.
- The 2007 General Assembly passed legislation that allows for the sale of State Forest permits through the Department's license agents, statewide.

Checking Deer and Spring Turkey

- Deer and spring turkey will be able to be checked via the Internet. Hunters can go to the department's Web site and check their kill.

Hunting Licenses and Permits

Residency Qualifications:

- Persons who have been a bonafide resident of the city, county, or state for six consecutive months immediately preceding the date of application for license.
- Persons who have been domiciliary residents of the state for at least two months upon approval of a completed affidavit to be furnished by the Game Department.
- Legal voters in Virginia.
- Members of the armed forces if they reside in the Commonwealth and are on active duty and are stationed at military installations within, or on ships based in the Commonwealth.
- Students (including nonresident students boarding on campus) residing in Virginia who are enrolled in bonafide Virginia schools.
- Unnaturalized owners of real property in Virginia who have resided in a county for five years immediately prior to making application for a license may apply for resident licenses only in the county where they qualify.

Every person who is required to have a license must carry such license and shall show the license immediately upon demand of any officer whose duty it is to enforce the game and inland fish laws, or upon the demand of any owner or lessee, or any employee or representative of such owner or lessee, upon whose land or water such person may be hunting, trapping or fishing.

No state or county resident licensed to hunt, trap or fish in or on the lands or inland waters of this Commonwealth shall be deemed to be issued until the certificate printed on the reverse side of that license shall have been signed by the named licensee.

Exceptions

All persons, except those listed below, must purchase the proper licenses before hunting or trapping. Where exempt, the exemption means the individual is exempt from the basic hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, muzzleloading license, and Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp.

- Resident or non-resident landowners, their spouses, their children and grandchildren and the spouses of such children and grandchildren, or the landowner's parents, resident or non-resident, do not need a license to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.
- Tenants, on the land they rent and occupy, are not required to have a license, but must have the written permission of the landowner.
- Residents, 65 years of age and over, do not need a license to hunt or trap on private property in their county of residence.
- Residents under the age of 12 are not required to obtain a license to hunt provided they are accompanied and directly supervised within sight of an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on their person.
- Residents under the age of 16 are not required to have a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid Virginia trapping license.
- Any person who is not hunting, but is aiding a disabled person to hunt when such disabled person possesses a valid Virginia Disabled Resident Lifetime hunting license or a Virginia Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime license is not required to have a license.
- Any Indian who "habitually" resides on an Indian reservation or a member of the Virginia recognized tribes who resides in the Commonwealth is not required to have a license; however, such Indian must have on his person an identification card or paper signed by the chief of his tribe, a valid tribal identification card, written confirmation through a central tribal registry, or certification from a tribal office.

No one is exempt from purchasing a resident or nonresident Bonus Deer Permit or purchasing Federal Duck Stamp or obtaining a HIP number if hunting migratory game birds.

Where to Obtain a License

- ◆ Online: At the Department's Web site. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.
- ◆ In Person: Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents located around the state.
- ◆ By Mail: Download and complete the proper form from the Department's Web site and mail it to the address provided.
- ◆ By Phone: Customer Service at 1-866-721-6911, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Archery/Crossbow/Muzzleloading License Requirements

- ◆ If hunting with a bow and arrow (longbow, recurve or compound) for any game species during any archery season you must have a state or county hunting license, an archery license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ If hunting with a crossbow for any game species during any archery season you must have a state or county hunting license, a crossbow license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ If hunting with a muzzleloading firearm for any game species during any muzzleloader deer season you must have a state or county hunting license, a muzzleloading license, and all other applicable licenses or permits.
- ◆ **If hunting with archery tackle or muzzleloading rifle during the firearms deer season you do not need an archery, crossbow or muzzleloading license.**

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirements

Hunter Education courses provide instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation and sportsmanship. The courses are a minimum of 10 hours in length and cover many topics preparing new hunters to enjoy their experience in the outdoors. Courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. A list of courses is available online or contact one of the Department's regional offices. You can call 1-866-604-1122 for a listing of Hunter Education classes near you. For information about obtaining a replacement certificate check the Agency's Web site or call 1-877-486-8338.

The following persons are required to present a Hunter Education Certificate in order to purchase a hunting license:

- All persons who are 12–15 years of age.
- All persons 16 years of age or older who have never been issued a hunting license.



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The following persons may be issued a hunting license without presenting a Hunter Education Certificate:

- Any person 16 years of age or older who presents a previously issued hunting license.
Virginia accepts and recognizes all states' and countries' hunting licenses and hunter education credentials for the purpose of complying with mandatory hunter education requirements. These may be in the form of an identification card or certificate.
- Any person 16 years of age or older who certifies that he or she has held a previously issued hunting license by signing the back of the license.
- First time hunters and hunters 12 to 15 years of age are required to complete the hunter education course before buying a hunting license and must present the hunter education course completion certificate when purchasing a hunting license from a license agent.
- When first time hunters age 16 or older are hunting on a license purchased by telephone, the Internet, or other electronic means, they must carry their hunter education course completion certificate on their person while hunting during their first license year.
- When hunters, age 12 to 15 years of age, are hunting on a license purchased by telephone, the Internet, or other electronic means, they must carry their hunter education course completion card or certificate on their person while hunting, or be accompanied by and directly supervised by a properly licensed adult while hunting.
- Any person under the age of 12.
Youth (under the age of 12) must be accompanied and directly supervised by a parent, legal guardian or an adult (designated by the parent or guardian) when hunting. The supervising adult must possess a valid Virginia hunting license.
- Any person who only hunts foxes with hounds while on horseback, but without firearms.

Customer Service Center for Purchasers of Hunting Licenses.

A customer service center has been established to help purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses. The center is open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, except holidays. The customer service center phone number is 1-866-721-6911 or e-mail customerservice@dgif.virginia.gov. Representatives at the center will be available to answer questions about licensing, assist you in purchasing the licenses appropriate for your hunting or fishing outing, correct information on a current license or re-issue a lost license.

License Year

All licenses sold by the Department are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp.

Replacement License

If a license is lost, a duplicate license can be obtained from any license agent.

License Fees

The issuance fee is included in the prices below.

REMINDER: Licenses sold by DGIF are valid for one year from the date of purchase with two exceptions: the Deer, Bear, Turkey License and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp.

Resident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

If you are required to buy a resident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits or stamps may also be required.

Sportsman's License (16 years and older); includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license and trout license120.00

Resident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older) 18.00

County or City Resident License to hunt in county or city of residence only (16 years or older)11.00

Resident Junior License to hunt statewide (ages 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)8.50

Resident Youth Combination License (under 16 years old) to hunt statewide; includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license16.00

Resident Junior Lifetime License (*under age 12*) to hunt statewide. No annual bear, deer, turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Stamp, County Damage Stamp and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Available only through the Richmond office.250.00

Resident Lifetime License to hunt. Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license.

Available only through the Richmond office.

Age 12–44255.00
(hunter education course required under age 16)

Age 45–50205.00

Age 51–55155.00

Age 56–60105.00

Age 61–6455.00

Age 65 and over15.00

Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to hunt and freshwater fish (available only through Richmond Office)10.00

Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to hunt, available only through Richmond Office. Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this hunting license.10.00

Resident Senior Citizen Annual License (*age 65 and over*) to hunt. Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.7.00

One or more of the following may be required in addition to the resident hunting license.

Resident Bear, Deer, Turkey License (*age 16 years or older*) to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide required in addition to county or state hunting license, or senior citizen license or lifetime license (Not required if senior citizen's lifetime license was purchased before July 1, 1988. Not required for holders of Disabled Veterans Lifetime license.)

Valid July 1–June 3018.00

Resident Junior Bear, Deer, Turkey License (*under 16 years old*) to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide required in addition to Resident Junior Hunting License. **Valid July 1–June 30** ..8.50

Resident Archery License to hunt statewide during the archery season18.00

Resident Crossbow License to hunt statewide during the archery season18.00

Resident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloader season18.00

Resident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags)
See page 31.18.00

Resident County Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Smyth County. Required in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the Clerk of the County. *Not required of residents 65 years or older*1.00

Nonresident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

The issuance fee is included in the prices below.

If you are required to buy a nonresident hunting license, one of the following is needed to hunt in Virginia. Other licenses, permits, or stamps may also be required.

Nonresident License to hunt statewide (16 years or older)	86.00
Nonresident 3-Day Trip License to hunt statewide (16 years or older). Must be 3 consecutive hunting days; no Sunday hunting	46.00
Nonresident Youth License (under age 12) to hunt statewide	13.00
Nonresident Youth License (ages 12–15) to hunt statewide	16.00
Nonresident Youth Combination License (under 16 years old) to hunt statewide; includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license	31.00
Nonresident Lifetime License to hunt (16 years or older) Available only through Richmond Office. Annual deer, bear, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license	505.00
One or more of the following may be required in addition to the nonresident hunting license.	
Nonresident Bear, Deer, Turkey License to hunt bear, deer and turkey statewide, required in addition to hunting license or lifetime license. Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Age 16 years or older	66.00
Age 12–15 years old	16.00
Under 12 years old	13.00
Nonresident Archery License to hunt statewide during archery season	31.00
Nonresident Crossbow License to hunt statewide during archery season	31.00
Nonresident Muzzleloading License to hunt during the muzzleloader season	31.00
Nonresident Shooting Preserve (to hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses)	18.00
Nonresident Bonus Deer Permit (2 antlerless tags) See page 31.	31.00
Nonresident County Damage Stamp to hunt deer and bear in Smyth County, in addition to other licenses, and sold only by the clerk of the county	5.00

Trapping Licenses

If you are required to buy a trapping license, one of the following is needed to trap in Virginia. Other licenses or permits may also be required.

County or City Resident License to trap in county or city of residence	16.00
Resident License to trap statewide	41.00
Resident Junior License (under 16 years old) to trap statewide	11.00
Resident Senior Citizen License (age 65 and over) to trap	7.00
Resident Senior Citizen Lifetime License (age 65 or over) to trap; available only through Richmond Office	15.00
Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime License to trap; available only through Richmond Office	10.00
Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Lifetime License to trap; available only through Richmond Office	10.00
Nonresident License to trap; available only through Richmond Office	156.00

Miscellaneous Permits and Stamps

Permits:

National Forest Permit to hunt and trap within National Forests. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap; residents 65 and older who possess a valid license to hunt or trap; or holders of a complimentary license to hunt.	4.00
State Forest Permit to hunt or trap on Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, Prince Edward and Sandy Point State Forests	15.00
Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS), see page 16 for more information	18.00

Stamps:

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp to take migratory waterfowl, required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices or online at www.duckstamp.com Valid July 1–June 30	15.00
Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Mandatory; required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt, in addition to hunting license.	10.00
Valid July 1–June 30	

Don't Make a Mistake. Be Sure of Your Target and Beyond.

Definitions

Hunting and Trapping

The act of or the attempted act of taking, hunting, trapping, pursuing, chasing, shooting, snaring or netting birds or animals, and assisting any person who is doing the same, regardless of whether birds or animals are actually taken. When hunting and trapping is allowed, reference is made to such acts as being conducted by lawful means and in a lawful manner.

Archery Tackle

As used in this digest archery tackle includes longbow, recurve bow, compound bows and crossbows.

Game and Furbearer Species

Nonmigratory game birds (grouse, pheasant, bobwhite quail and turkey), game animals (bear, bobcat, deer, fox, rabbit, raccoon and squirrel), and furbearing animals (beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, otter, opossum, raccoon, skunk and weasel) may only be taken in accordance with state laws and Department regulations, many of which are summarized in this digest.

Nuisance Species

The following animals: house mouse, Norway rat, black rat, coyote, groundhog, nutria, feral hog, European starling, English sparrow, mute swans and pigeon (rock dove) are designated as nuisance species and may be taken at any time (except on Sunday) by use of a firearm or other weapon and on some public lands during certain time periods, see National Forest–Game Department Regulations page 16.

Other Wildlife

It is unlawful to take, possess, transport or sell all other wildlife species not classified as game, furbearer or nuisance, unless otherwise specifically permitted by law or regulation.

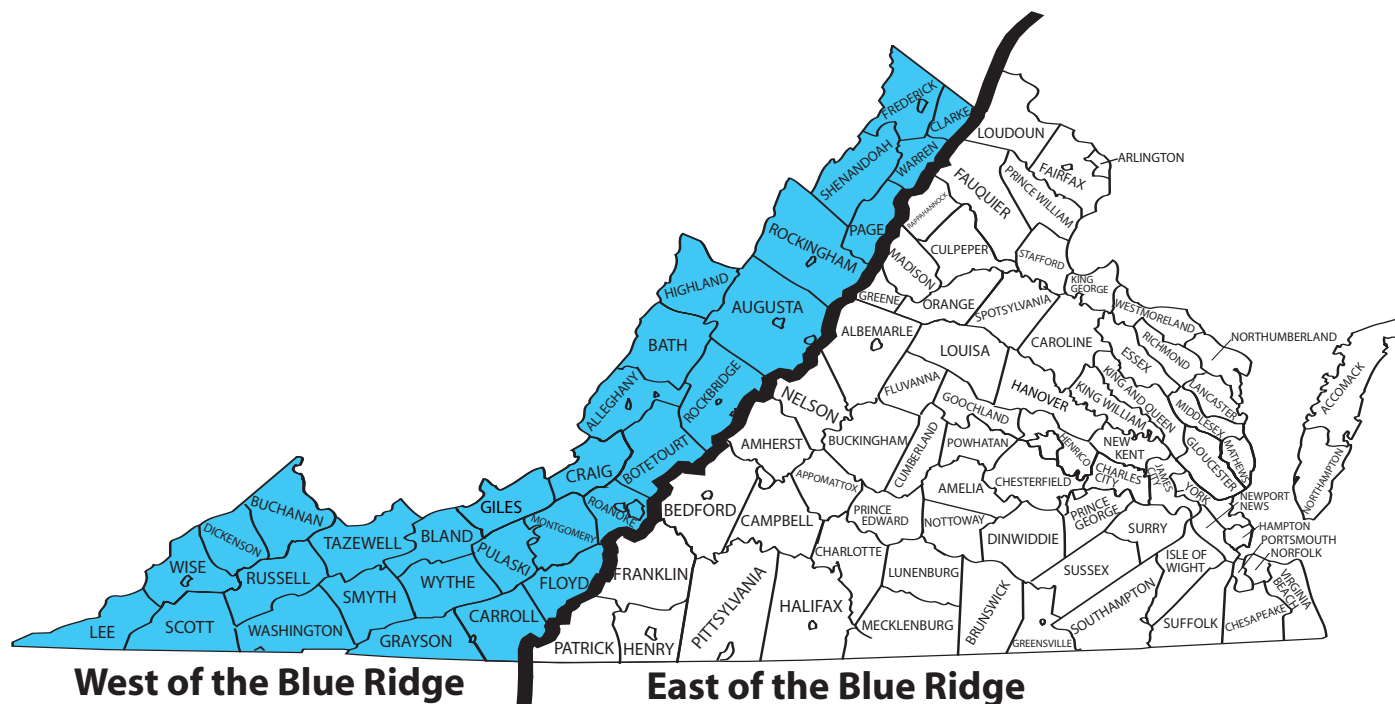
A hunting license is required to take any wild animal or bird (except as explained under hunting licenses and permits). Persons taking frogs or turtles must have an appropriate license whether by hunting (gigging), trapping or angling. Bullfrogs may be taken by bow and arrow and from private waters by firearms no larger than .22 caliber rimfire.

Dismal Swamp Line

Beginning at a point on Rt. 10 where it intersects the Isle of Wight County line, then along this highway to its intersection with the corporate limits of Suffolk, then through Suffolk to its intersection with Rt. 642 (White Marsh Road) and then along this highway in a southwest direction to Rt. 604 (Desert Road), and then southerly along this highway to the North Carolina state line.

East & West of the Blue Ridge

The map below shows the counties that are east or west of the Blue Ridge. Counties colored blue are west of the Blue Ridge and those counties in white are east of the Blue Ridge.



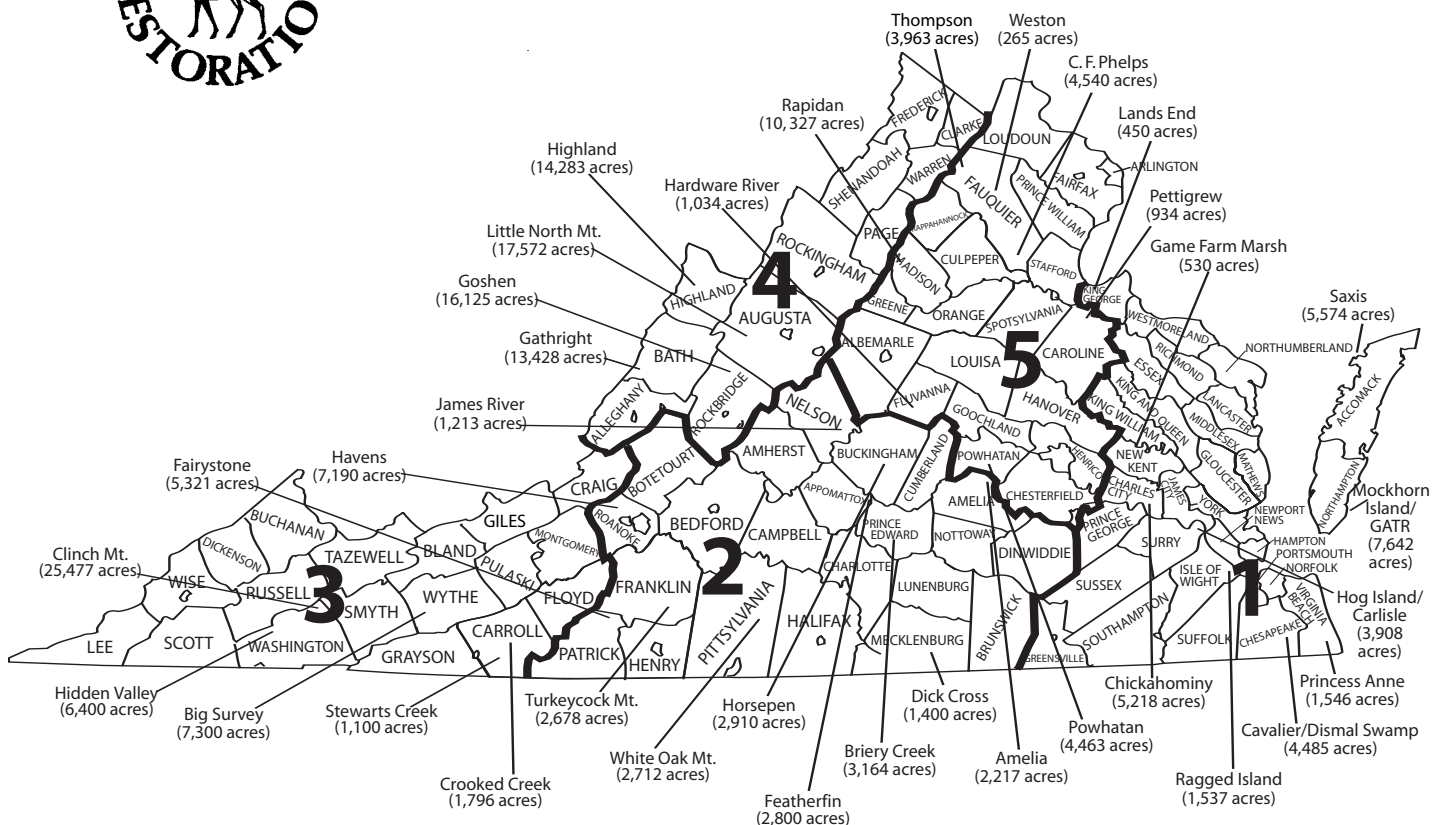
Public Hunting Lands

Department Wildlife Management Areas

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries maintains 36 management areas totaling nearly 200,000 acres for the benefit of all citizens for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Thirty-four management areas are open for some type of hunting. These lands are purchased and maintained with hunting, fishing and trapping license fees and with Wildlife Restoration Funds. We encourage the public to utilize our land and enjoy the bountiful natural resources found on each area. The map below and charts on pages 13 and 14 provide a guide on the location and activities associated with each of the Department's wildlife management areas. For more detailed information on each area and an area map visit the Department's Web site or contact the appropriate Regional office listed on page 3.



Michelle Lehner



Rules For Wildlife Management Areas

General

- ◆ Activities involving groups of more than 12 persons require written authorization from the Department.
- ◆ Display or consumption of alcoholic beverages in public is prohibited.
- ◆ Commercial activities are prohibited except by written authorization from the Department.

Hunting & Trapping

Please refer to the current hunting and trapping seasons found in this digest. Special seasons and bag limits that apply to a wildlife management area will be posted at the entrance.

Firearms

- ◆ It is unlawful to have in possession or in a vehicle a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled except when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasants, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel or turkey; and additionally, migratory game birds on Department owned lands east of the Blue Ridge; or by permit issued by the Department; or by concealed handgun permit issued by a Circuit Court.
- ◆ It is unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on a WMA.
- ◆ Target shooting is permitted on designated ranges only.

Fishing, Boating and Swimming

Please refer to the current Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations digest and posted signs for any special creel and size restrictions that may apply to WMA.

- ◆ It is unlawful to use boats propelled by gasoline motors, sail or by mechanically operated recreational paddle wheel, unless otherwise posted.
- ◆ Swimming is prohibited. Anglers actively engaged in fishing, hunters actively engaged in hunting, and trappers lawfully trapping may wade in public fishing lakes.
- ◆ It is unlawful to use trotlines on public fishing lakes.

Camping/Fires

- ◆ Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is permitted for up to 14 consecutive days when occupants are engaged in authorized activities. No more than 3 camping units are permitted per site.
- ◆ Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any boat ramp or fishing lake or at other specific sites as posted.
- ◆ It is unlawful to leave a campfire unattended. From February 15 to April 30 campfires are allowed only between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight.

Dogs

- ◆ It is lawful to chase with dogs or train dogs on Department-owned lands only during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities.

- ◆ Dogs must be leashed at all times outside of open hunting, chase, or training seasons.

Horseback/Bicycle Riding and Hiking

- ◆ Horseback and bicycle riding are welcome on all roads and trails unless otherwise posted. Please avoid riding in cultivated or planted fields, or on eroded areas. Riders and cyclists should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- ◆ Hiking is welcome. Hikers should be mindful of all open hunting seasons.
- ◆ Please avoid engaging in these activities when they may interfere with hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers.
- ◆ Blaze orange hat or clothing is recommended for non-hunters during hunting seasons.

Vehicles

- ◆ Motor vehicles are prohibited behind barricades or gates designed to prevent entry or within areas otherwise posted to prohibit motor vehicles.
- ◆ Operation of ATVs and other unlicensed motor vehicles is prohibited.
- ◆ Cross-country motor vehicle travel (off-road travel) is prohibited.
- ◆ A motorized wheelchair suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area is not considered a motorized vehicle and, therefore, is not covered by any restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles on department owned lands. The term wheelchair means a device designed solely for use by a mobility - impaired person for locomotion that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.
- ◆ Motor vehicles, campers, and trailers may be parked on Department-owned lands only when the owners/responsible party are engaged in authorized activities.

Resource and Property Damage

- ◆ It is unlawful to construct or occupy any permanent structure (including a permanently-affixed tree stand) except by Department permit.
- ◆ It is unlawful to cut, mutilate, destroy or remove vegetation, or to remove minerals, artifacts or other property from the area. Metal detecting/artifact hunting is prohibited.
- ◆ It is unlawful to damage, deface, or remove any building, gate, fence, sign or other property.

Special Antler Rules

- ◆ It shall be unlawful to kill an antlered deer on Featherfin Wildlife Management Area or on the special Fairystone Quality Deer Management Area unless the deer has at least four antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.

Other uses are allowed only by written authorization from the Department or by posted rules.



Scout Online!

www.dgif.virginia.gov
Click on Find Game

Find Game is an interactive Web-based map viewer designed by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to provide information about hunting quality, land location and access.

Find Game allows you to map hunting areas by location and/or by game species. The following public hunting lands are included:

- VDGIF Wildlife Management Areas
- State parks
- State and National Forests
- Military Installations
- National Wildlife Refuges
- and other special hunting opportunities

Within Virginia there are 3.5 million acres of public hunting land. Find Game lists: hunting quality by species, land manager contact information, site description, facilities available, access information, and associated Web links for each of the 115 properties.

While Find Game provides a wealth of information, VDGIF strongly recommends that hunters contact local land managers before traveling to a hunting destination. Hunting access and regulations change over time, so check Find Game often!

For more information e-mail:
Findgame@dgif.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

[DGIF Main](#) [DGIF Hunting Main](#) [Regulations](#) [Managed Hunts](#) [Buy Your License](#)

STATE MAP ZOOM IN ZOOM OUT LAST ZOOM RECENTER INFORMATION PRINT MAP HELP

Information for the Selected Property

Name: [Amelia WMA](#)

Owner: DGIF

Contact: phone: VA DGIF 434-525-7522

Notes: Expect heavy hunting pressure during dove, deer, and turkey seasons; small game hunting (quail/rabbit/woodcock) restricted via DGIF quota hunt

Facilities: dove field, primitive camping, field trial, hiking, birding and wildlife trail, boat ramp, shooting range, trapping, handicapped accessible - contact manager

Links:
[WMA Home Page](#)

Species hunting quality:

Bear	Species not common
Deer	Average
Dove	Good
Grouse	Species not common
Quail	Poor
Rabbit	Poor
Raccoon	Average
Squirrel	Good
Turkey	Good
Waterfowl	Average

Hunting Opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas

For more information go to Find Game at www.dgif.virginia.gov

	Bear	Deer	Turkey	Grouse	Quail	Rabbit	Dove Fields	Woodcock	Waterfowl	Squirrel	Raccoon
Amelia	SC	A	A		P	G	G	G	A	G	A
Big Survey	A	A	A	A		SC				G	A
Briery Creek	SC	A	A		P	A		A	G	A	A
Cavalier/Dismal Swamp	A	G	P		A	A		A		P	G
Chickahominy		G	G		P	A	A	P	A	G	G
Clinch Mountain	G	A	A	G		G		SC	A	E	A
Crooked Creek	SC	A	A	P	P	G		SC		G	A
Dick Cross		A	A		P	A	G	A	G	A	A
Fairystone Farm	P	G	G	P	P	A		P		E	G
Featherfin	P	G	G		P	G		G	A	G	G
Game Farm Marsh		P	P						A		
Gathright	G	A	G	A	SC	A		A	A	E	A
Goshen	E	A	G	A	SC	A		P		G	A
Hardware River	SC	G	A	SC	A	G		A	A	G	G
Havens	G	A	A	P		SC		SC		G	A
Hidden Valley	G	P	A	P		SC			P	E	A
Highland	G	G	G	A	SC	A		P		G	A
Hog Island		G							E		
Hog Island/Carlisle Tract		A	A		P	A	A	P	A	G	G
Horsepen Lake	SC	A	G		P	P	G	A	P	G	G
James River	P	A	A		P	G	A	A	A	A	G
Lands End (no hunting)											
Little North Mountain	G	G	G	A	SC	A		P		E	A
Mockhorn Island									A		G
Mockhorn Island (GATR)		A	A						A		
Pettigrew	SC	E	A	SC	A	G		A	A	G	A
Phelps	SC	E	A	SC	A	A	G	A	A	G	A
Powhatan	SC	A	G	SC	P	A	A	A	A	G	G
Princess Anne									G		
Ragged Island		A							A		
Rapidan	E/G	A	A	A	SC	P		A	P	G	A
Saxis		A				A		A	A		A
Stewarts Creek	SC	A	A	P		SC				G	A
Thompson	SC	G	A	A	SC	A		A	A	G	A
Turkeycock Mt.	P	A	A	P	SC	P		P		G	A
Weston (no hunting)											
White Oak Mt.	SC	A	A		A	G	G	A	P	G	G

Hunting Quality: E - Excellent G - Good A - Average P - Poor SC - Species Not Common

Recreational Opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas

For more information go to Find Game at www.dgif.virginia.gov

	Hunting	Trapping	Trout	Warm Water Fishing	Saltwater Fishing	Developed Camping	Primitive Camping	Field Trials	Hiking	Birding/ Wildlife Trails	Boat Ramp	Ranges
Amelia *	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Big Survey	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Briery Creek	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cavalier/Dismal Swamp *	✓	✓								✓		
Chickahominy	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	✓
Clinch Mountain	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Crooked Creek	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Dick Cross *	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fairystone Farm	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Featherfin *	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Game Farm Marsh	✓	✓		✓								
Gathright	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓
Goshen	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			
Hardware River	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Havens	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓		
Hidden Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Highland	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓			
Hog Island *	✓				✓					✓		
Hog Island/Carlisle Tract	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	
Horsepen Lake	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
James River	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Lands End (no hunting)										✓		
Little North Mountain	✓	✓					✓		✓			
Mockhorn Island	✓	✓			✓		✓					
Mockhorn Island (GATR) *	✓				✓					✓		
Pettigrew	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Phelps	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Powhatan	✓	✓		✓			✓					
Princess Anne *	✓				✓					✓	✓	
Ragged Island	✓	✓			✓					✓		
Rapidan	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Saxis	✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓	
Stewarts Creek	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓		
Thompson	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
Turkeycock Mt.	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		
Weston (no hunting)				✓			✓		✓	✓		
White Oak Mt.	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓		✓

* some or all hunting by quota drawing (see page 62)

✓ Available

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Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

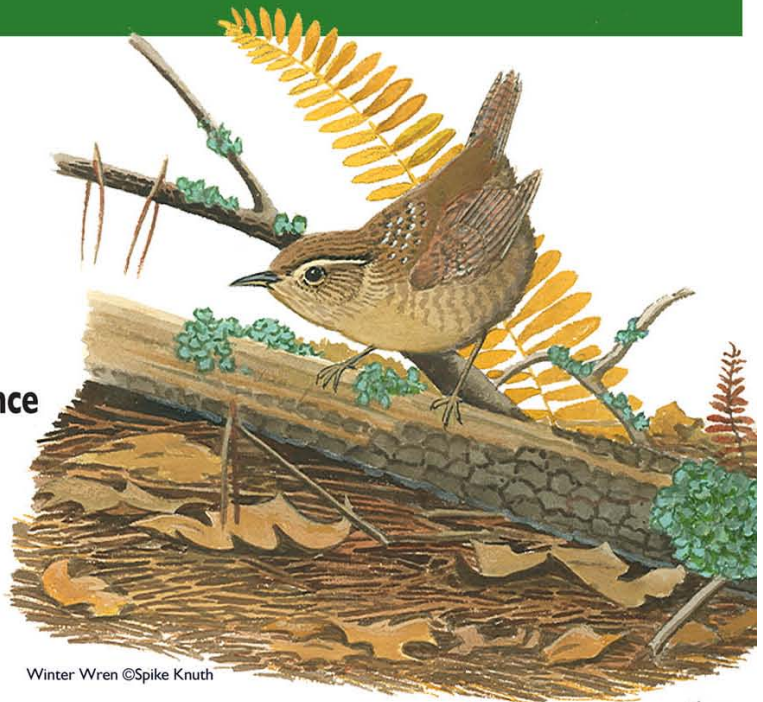
Outdoor Report

Managing and Conserving Our Wildlife and Natural Resources



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- ❖ Regulations
- ❖ Fishing News
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- ❖ Outdoor Safety Tips
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Winter Wren ©Spike Knuth

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Help spread the word about the new *Outdoor Report* to friends, family, and colleagues. Encourage them to subscribe.

Public Access Lands For Sportsmen (PALS)

PALS is a program that opens additional lands for public use. Through this cooperative private / public program the Department has opened more than 19,000 acres of private land in Dickenson County to public hunting, fishing and trapping. The property is owned by Heartwood Forestland Fund IV and managed by The Forestland Group, LLC. The Department manages access for hunting, fishing and trapping. PALS permits are only sold through license agents and the fee is \$18.00. Hunters, anglers and trappers must buy the permit from a license agent. Inquiries about this area should be directed to the Marion Regional Office at 276 / 783- 4860.

The Department hopes to provide additional PALS lands in the future across other parts of the Commonwealth.

National Forests

Parking fees are required only on the following National Forest Recreation Areas: Todd Lake, Coles Point, Longdale, Fortney Branch, Sherando Lake, Bolar Mountain, Bolar Flat, Cascades, High Knob, Bark Camp Lake, Hanging Rock, Cave Mountain Lake, Beartree, Hurricane, Grindstone, Raven Cliff, Fox Creek, Raccoon Branch, Roaring Run and Dark Horse Hollow. Seasonal day use passes are available for \$25.00. A 50% discount is available for holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports. For more information please call the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests' Supervisor's Office at (540) 265-5100 or contact the appropriate ranger district at:

Clinch: (276) 328-2931

Dry River/Deerfield: (540) 432-0187

Glenwood-Pedlar: (540) 291-2189

James River: (540) 962-2214

Lee: (540) 984-4101

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area:
(276) 783-5196

New River Valley/New Castle (540) 552-4641

Warm Springs: (540) 839-2521

Regulations Specific to National Forest and Game Department Lands

It shall be unlawful to have in possession a bow or gun which is not unloaded and cased or dismantled on all National Forest lands statewide, or on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey or waterfowl on these lands; and on Department-owned lands and on lands managed by the Department under cooperative agreement in counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains except during the period when it is lawful to take bear, deer, grouse, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, turkey, waterfowl or migratory game birds on these lands.

Except as provided by special concealed handgun permit, it shall be unlawful to possess or transport a loaded gun in or on any vehicle at any time on National Forest lands or Department-owned

lands. "Loaded gun" is defined as a firearm in which ammunition is chambered or loaded in the magazine or clip, when such magazine or clip is found engaged or partially engaged in a firearm. The definition of a loaded muzzleloading gun will include a gun which is capped or has a charged pan.

The word "possession" shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow or firearm in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.

It is unlawful to chase with a dog or train dogs on National Forest lands or Department-owned lands except during authorized hunting, chase or training seasons that specifically permit these activities on these lands.

It is unlawful to use electronic calls on National Forest lands, except for crows.

Access Roads

Hunter access roads on Department lands seasonally open to motor vehicles will be open (weather permitting) from the 1st Saturday in October to the 2nd Saturday in February and the 1st Saturday in April to the 3rd Saturday in May.

Opening and closing dates of hunter access roads on National Forest Lands may vary by ranger district. Opening and closing dates are determined by management considerations for the areas accessed by these roads. Contact the local ranger district listed at left for opening and closing dates on specific roads.

Any motor driven vehicle using roads normally open to motor vehicles on Department and National Forest lands shall conform with all state laws for highway travel. No cross country travel is permitted. All terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-road vehicle (ORV) travel is permitted only on designated National Forest roads and trails.

Foot travel is invited on roads closed to motor vehicles.

Camping Policy

Primitive camping (no water, electric hookups, bathrooms or other facilities) is permitted on Department-owned lands, except as otherwise posted. Camping is prohibited on or within 100 yards of any Department-owned or controlled boat ramp or fishing lake. Camping on Department-owned lands is not to exceed 14 consecutive days. Only 3 camping units permitted per site.

Camping on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests for more than 21 consecutive days without having terminated Forest occupancy for a minimum of 10 days within a 31-day time period is prohibited. **No trash service is provided. "Pack it in, Pack it out."**

Unauthorized Feeding

It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of, deposit, distribute, or scatter food or salt capable of attracting or being eaten by bear, deer or turkey on National Forest lands and Department-owned lands. This regulation does not prohibit the proper disposal of food in trash receptacles provided by the National Forest or by the Department. See page 21 for other feeding restrictions.

Structures

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent structure, except by permit, on Department-owned lands and National Forest lands.

It is unlawful to maintain any temporary dwelling on Department-owned land for more than 14 consecutive days. Persons constructing or occupying such structures are responsible for complete removal of temporary structures.

Tree Stands

It is unlawful to construct, maintain or occupy any permanent tree stand on Department-owned lands, National Forest lands and on Department of Conservation and Recreation- owned or controlled lands. Portable tree stands, which are not permanently affixed, may be used. Use of a safety harness while hunting from tree stands is strongly recommended.

State Forests

Hunting is allowed on Appomattox-Buckingham and Prince Edward State Forests (contact 434-983-2175), Cumberland State Forest (contact 804-492-4121) and on Sandy Point State Forest (contact 804-492-4121). A State Forest Hunting Permit is required and may be purchased from license agents or the Department of Forestry. No motorized vehicles on gated roads and trails (opened or closed) are permitted without written authorization.

State Parks

Virginia State Parks offers a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for the entire family, including hunting opportunities. These range from open hunting in designated areas to managed deer hunts where individuals participate through a reservation or lottery system. Managed deer hunts are a tool in Virginia State Parks' overall deer management program. Specific sites that offer hunting may change from year to year. Participating hunters are asked to support our efforts by following harvest guidelines associated with each hunt.

Please refer to chart on pages 18 and 19 for specific information. Information is also available on the Web site at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/parks/hunting/htm>.

Federal Refuges

Hunting is allowed on the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia. For more information, contact the appropriate refuge manager at:

*Back Bay: (757) 721-2412

Chincoteague: (757) 336-6122

*Dismal Swamp: (757) 986-3705

Eastern Shore: (757) 331-2760

James River: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470

Mason Neck/Occoquan: (703) 490-4979

*Plum Tree Island: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470

*Presquile: (804) 829-9020 or (804) 333-1470

*Rappahannock River Valley: (804) 333-1470

* Quota hunts are offered through VDGIF Quota Hunt program, see pages 62-65

Military Areas

Fort A.P. Hill

Archery Season: October 6–November 16.

Muzzleloading Season: November 3–November 16.

General Firearms: November 17–January 5. One deer per day. Either sex deer hunting on Saturdays and November 19–23 and Dec. 31–Jan. 4. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Open half day on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

All persons 12 years of age and older must present a hunter education certificate in order to purchase an A.P. Hill hunting permit.

Contact Fort A.P. Hill Game Check Station at (804) 633-8244 for details about the hunter education requirements, permits and fees required to hunt on Post; and restrictions, seasons and bag limits for all other game species.

Fort Pickett

Deer:

General Firearms: November 17–January 5. Two per day, six per year, either-sex deer hunting on Wednesdays and November 24, December 1 and December 31–January 5.

Quail:

Hunting permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays only.

Contact the Ft. Pickett Game Check Station at (434) 292-2618 for further details about seasons and special restrictions.

Quantico Marine Reservation

Deer:

General Firearms: November 17–January 5. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Open half day on Thanksgiving Day.

Archery Season: October 6–November 16.

No Muzzleloading Season.

Consult Quantico Game Check Station for daily and seasonal bag limits, other seasons and further details, at (703) 784-5523 or www.quantico.usmc.mil/g5/nrea/fwa/hunting.htm.

Fort Belvoir

Archery Only: qualification required.

Deer: September 15, 2007–March 29, 2008.

Spring Gobbler: April 12–May 17, 2008.

Contact Outdoor Recreation staff at (703) 805-3688 for further details.

National Parks

Hunting is prohibited in all National Parks in Virginia. Hunters may obtain hunter parking access permits from the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park Service to park at designated areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway and cross national park lands (firearms must be unloaded and cased) to hunt on National Forest lands. For further information call (540) 377-2377.

Virginia State Parks and Natural Areas Hunting Opportunities

State Park or Natural Area	Hunting Dates	Reservation Hunt*	Lottery Hunts*	Lottery Deadline	Reservation Period Begins	Number of Hunters/Day	Firearms Allowed	Application Fee	Hunting Fee	Reservation Fee	Hunter Education Required
Belle Isle Lancaster County 804-462-5030	11/14-15		✓	10/12		12	M	\$5	\$10		✓
	1/2-3		✓	12/7		12	G	\$5	\$10		✓
Caledon Natural Area King George County 540-663-3861	11/7-8 11/14-15	✓			9/13	20	M			\$15	✓
Chippokes Plantation Surry County 757-294-3625	12/10	✓			9/27	30	S,bs			\$15	✓
Claytor Lake Pulaski County 540-643-2500	TBA	✓			9/28	20	M			\$15	✓
Douthat Bath County 540-862-8100	11/13-15	✓			9/14	45	M			\$15	✓
	TBA	✓			9/14	45	TBA			\$15	✓
Grayson Highlands Grayson County 276-579-7092	11/17		✓	9/26		30	YG	\$5	\$10		✓
	11/19-20		✓	9/26		30	G	\$5	\$10		✓
James River Buckingham County 434-933-4355	11/26-28 12/10-12	✓			9/20	15	A,M			\$15	✓
	1/3-5	✓			9/20	15	S,bs			\$15	✓
Kiptopeke Northampton County 757-331-2267	11/9-10		✓	10/5		4	A,M	\$5	\$10		✓
	12/7-8		✓	11/9		4	S	\$5	\$10		✓
Lake Anna Spotsylvania County 540-854-5503	12/12-13 12/18-19		✓	11/16		20	M,S	\$5	\$10		✓
Pocahontas Chesterfield County 804-796-4255	12/3-4 12/19-20		✓	11/2		25	M,S	\$5	\$10		✓

Key

A - Archery
M - Muzzleloading Firearms
S - Shotgun
bs - Buckshot only
G - General Firearms
YG - Youth General Firearms

* To apply for hunt lotteries, or to reserve a space in a reservation hunt, call the **State Parks Reservation Center at 1-800-933-PARK**. All hunts have special regulations. Contact the individual park or the reservation center to obtain the hunt specific rules.

Open Hunting: Designated areas within the following parks are open to hunting throughout the hunting season. Statewide regulations apply. Contact the individual park for more information: **Fairy Stone** (Patrick County) 276-930-2424, **Grayson Highlands** (Grayson County) 276-579-7092, **Hungry Mother** (Smyth County) 276-781-7400, **Occoneechee** (Mecklenburg County) 434-374-2210, and **Pocahontas** (Chesterfield County) 804-796-4255.

State Park or Natural Area	Hunting Dates	Reservation Hunts*	Lottery Hunts*	Lottery Deadline	Reservation Period Begins	Number of Hunters/Day	Firearms Allowed	Application Fee	Hunting Fee	Reservation Fee	Hunter Education Required
Shenandoah River Warren County 540-622-6840	11/19	✓			9/7	7	YG			\$15	✓
	11/26–27	✓			9/7	14	G			\$15	✓
Smith Mountain Lake Bedford County 540-297-6066	11/5–6 11/12–13	✓			9/6	30	A,M			\$15	✓
Staunton River Halifax County 434-572-4623	11/7–8		✓	10/5		10	A,M	\$5	\$10		✓
York River James City County 757-566-3036	11/5–6	✓			9/21	40	A,M			\$15	✓
	11/26–27	✓			9/21	40	S			\$15	✓

Other Lottery Hunts

False Cape Virginia Beach 757-426-7128	10/6, 10/8–10 10/25–27		✓	8/31		116	S	\$7.50	\$10		✓
Lottery includes Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Apply online http://www.vaquoatahunts.com											
Mason Neck Fairfax County 703-490-4979	11/27–28, 12/7		✓	9/1		86	S,bs	\$10	\$20		
Lottery coordinated by Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge											

State Parks continued from page 17

Lottery Hunts

Several parks offer hunting opportunities by lottery. Refer to the chart for details. A separate lottery application is required for each hunt. A \$5 non-refundable application fee is required with each completed application and a \$10 hunting fee will be collected at the site. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. Detailed hunt information, including lottery deadlines, is typically available beginning August 1 of each year. Contact the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (800-933-7275) for information about the lotteries. Additionally, Mason Neck State Park holds a lottery deer hunt coordinated by the Potomac River National Wildlife Refuge. False Cape State Park's lottery is coordinated with Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, through the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Quota Hunt system.

Reservation Hunts

Several parks offer deer hunting opportunities by reservation. Refer to the chart for details. Hunters may reserve both the day and preferred stand or zone for a fee of \$15 per day. The fee is non-refundable. Proof of hunter education certification and required licenses must be presented at check-in. Detailed hunt information, including hunt reservation periods, is typically available beginning August 1 of each year. Contact the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (800-933-7275) to reserve a slot.

Special Hunts

Some parks offer hunting opportunities for youth, as well as specialized hunting programs. Contact individual parks for more information on special hunts. One popular program is the Southern Heritage Deer Hunt held at Chippokes Plantation State Park each year. This is an old-fashioned hunt featuring three traditional meals, a blessing of the hounds, rides to and from the hunt stands and a butchering service. Reservations may be made up to one year in advance through the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center (800-933-7275).

Open Hunting

Designated areas within some parks are open to hunting throughout the hunting season. Only the designated areas within these parks allow hunting, and statewide hunting regulations apply. Restrictions on parking and weapons may apply. Refer to the chart for details. Contact the individual park for more information.

For more information about hunting in a Virginia State Park or to make reservations, call 1-800-933-PARK, or on the Web at http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/hunting.htm. Overnight accommodations are available at many sites during part of the hunting season; contact the Reservation Center or visit the Web site for additional information and to reserve cabins or campsites.

General Hunting Regulations

Blaze Orange Requirements

- When hunting any game species during the firearms deer season, every hunter or person accompanying a hunter shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze orange. Hats shall not be in “camo” style, since the latter is designated to prevent visibility. A logo, which does not detract from visibility, may be worn on a blaze orange hat.
- Blaze orange is not required during the muzzleloading deer season(s) or by waterfowl hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials and fox hunters on horseback without firearms.
- Hunters hunting with archery tackle during an open firearms deer season, in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited by state law or local ordinance, are exempt from the blaze orange requirement.

Hunting Hours

(See page 79 for sunrise-sunset timetable.)

- One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for nonmigratory birds and game animals except during spring gobbler season.
- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon, during spring gobbler season except the last 12 days the hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset.
- Bobcat, foxes, raccoons, and opossums may be hunted by day or night during authorized seasons.
- Migratory game birds, waterfowl, and special resident goose (see special pamphlets for hunting these species).
- Nuisance species may be taken day or night.

Hunting With Dogs:

- Dogs may be used to pursue wild birds and animals during hunting seasons where not prohibited.
- When the chase begins on other lands, fox hunters and coon hunters may follow their dogs on prohibited lands, and hunters of all other game, when the chase begins on other lands, may go upon prohibited lands to retrieve their dogs, but may not carry firearms or archery tackle on their persons or hunt any game while thereon. The use of vehicles to retrieve dogs on prohibited lands shall be allowed only with the permission of the landowner or his agent. Any person who goes on prohibited lands to retrieve his dogs and who willfully refuses to identify himself when requested by the landowner or his agent to do so is guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor.
- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting any species with archery tackle during any archery season.

Deer or Bear Killed by Car

Any person who is involved in a collision with a deer or bear while driving a motor vehicle, thereby killing the animal, shall immediately report the accident to the game warden or other law enforcement officer in the county or city where the accident occurred. The driver shall have the option of taking possession of the deer or bear. The State does not pay for damages incurred resulting from collisions with wildlife. Consult your insurance company.

Training Dogs

The training of dogs on live wild animals is considered hunting and is unlawful during the closed season except as noted below.

- You must have a valid hunting license while training dogs on live wild animals.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on private lands and Quantico Marine Reservation. Participants shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession and no wild animals shall be taken. Weapons may be in possession when training dogs on captive raised and properly marked mallards and pigeons so that they may be immediately shot or recovered, except on Sunday.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and nonmigratory game birds on Ft. A.P. Hill the months of September and February. Participants may only have starter pistols in their possession. No captive reared birds may be released.
- You may train dogs on National Forest or Department-owned lands only during authorized training seasons that specifically permit these activities.
- You may train dogs on quail on designated portions of the Amelia Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Chester F. Phelps WMA, Chickahominy WMA and Dick Cross WMA from September 1 to the day prior to the opening date of the quail hunting season, both dates inclusive. No weapons other than starter pistols may be in possession, and pen-raised birds may not be released.
- Pen-raised quail may be released at any time on private land with landowner permission. However, except on shooting preserves, birds can only be shot during the regular quail season. Regular bag limits apply.
- You may train dogs during daylight hours on rabbits and non-migratory game birds on the Weston WMA from September 1 thru March 31, both dates inclusive. Participants in this dog training season shall have no weapons other than starter pistols in their possession, shall not release pen-raised birds, and must comply with all regulations and laws pertaining to hunting. No game shall be taken.



Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment

Special restrictions may apply to specific firearms use in some counties. See Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Shotguns must not be larger than 10 gauge.
- Shotgun magazines must be plugged with a plug that cannot be removed from the loading end so the gun will hold a total of no more than three shells.
- Shotgun barrels must be at least 18 inches long.
- Shotguns with rifled barrels are permitted in areas where slugs may be used.
- No restrictions on shot size except for spring gobbler season when it is unlawful to have any shot in possession larger than number 2 fine shot while hunting.
- Rifles used for deer or bear must be .23 caliber or larger.
- Rifles may be used for taking wild animals and birds, except migratory game birds and waterfowl, and where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Rifles, pistols, and revolvers may be used for hunting crows, except where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Rifles, pistols, and revolvers may be used for hunting turkeys, except where prohibited by local ordinances.
- Pistols and revolvers firing .22 caliber rimfire ammunition and muzzleloading pistols may be used for small game where .22 rifles are permitted.
- Archery tackle may be used for hunting wild birds and animals. (See Archery/Crossbow/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 6).
- Muzzleloading shotguns, muzzleloading rifles or archery tackle may be used to hunt during the firearms seasons where not prohibited (Archery/Muzzleloading License Requirements pg. 6).
- All game birds and animals, except deer, may be hunted with shotguns from boats. Hunters must have permission from the landowner to hunt/retrieve game located on private land.
- Pistols and revolvers are lawful for deer and bear hunting only in those counties where hunting deer and bear with rifles is lawful. Cartridges used must be .23 caliber or larger and have a manufacturer's rating of 350 foot-pounds muzzle energy or more.

- Concealed handguns may be in the possession of hunters during the archery and muzzleloading seasons when they also possess a valid concealed handgun permit. Such handguns may not be used to shoot wild animals during these seasons.
- Crossbows are legal to use by any hunter.
 - If a crossbow is used during an archery season (including the urban archery season) the hunter must have a crossbow license.
 - Disabled hunters unable to use conventional archery equipment will no longer need a doctor's certification to use a crossbow. A disabled hunter will need a crossbow license when using a crossbow during an archery season.
 - If a hunter chooses to use both conventional archery tackle and a crossbow during an archery season, they will need both an archery license when using the conventional bow and a crossbow license when using the crossbow.
 - If a hunter chooses to use a crossbow during the firearms season, no crossbow license will be required (just as there is no requirement for a person to have an archery license if using conventional archery equipment during the firearms season).
 - The laws governing the use of archery tackle also apply to crossbow tackle.

Unlawful Feeding of Wildlife

Not only is it illegal to hunt, chase with dogs, or attempt to kill game birds and animals from a baited site (see the specific rules about baiting on page 22), it is also illegal to feed some wildlife under certain circumstances. Feeding restrictions help control the transmission of diseases, nuisance problems, littering concerns, and enforcement issues about hunting with bait.

Unlawful to Feed Deer

September 1, 2007 – January 5, 2008:

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, salt, minerals or similar substances, to feed or attract deer from September 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive. Nor, upon written notification by Department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer. No part of this regulation shall be construed to restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots) or distribution of food to livestock.

Unlawful to Feed Bears (anytime):

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, minerals, carrion, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon written notification by Department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, mineral, carrion or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of bear in such numbers or circumstances to cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person, cause property damage, or endanger any person or wildlife.

Shooting From the Road is Illegal

Shooting at wildlife from a vehicle and/or from or across a public road is illegal.

Penalties include: fines, license revocation and confiscation of firearms.

Unlawful Methods

Penalties may include hunting license revocation for one year to life and forfeiture of firearms.

A person found guilty of a violation a second time within three years of a previous conviction shall have their license revoked by the court trying the case.

It is unlawful to:

- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with firearms or other weapons on Sunday, except on licensed shooting preserves. Raccoon hunters may hunt until 2:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.
- Discharge a firearm or archery tackle in or across or within the right-of-way of any public road.
- Cast a light attached to a vehicle or from a vehicle beyond a road-way upon places used by deer without written permission of the landowner or at anytime while in the possession of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, archery tackle, or speargun.
- Handle any firearm in a reckless manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Destroy, mutilate, or take down “posted” signs or to litter.
- Hunt adjacent to forest fires.
- Willfully and intentionally impede the lawful hunting or trapping of wild birds or wild animals.
- Kill or cripple and knowingly allow any non-migratory game bird or game animal to be wasted without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the animal and retain it in possession.
- Hunt (under age 12) without being accompanied and directly supervised by a licensed parent, guardian, or other adult designated by the parent or guardian. The term “accompanied and directly supervised” means the adult is within sight of the person under the age of 12.
- Shoot a rifle or pistol at wild birds or animals on or over the public inland waters of the state.
- Carry a loaded rifle or pistol on a boat or other floating device on public inland waters for hunting wild birds or animals.
- Shoot waterfowl or migratory game birds from a boat being propelled by a motor.
- Hunt or trap on another’s land without the landowner’s permission. (See Hunting on Private Property pg.74)
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicants or narcotic drugs.
- Molest eggs, nest, den or young of any wild bird or animal, except nuisance species, at any time without a permit as required by law.
- Occupy any baited blind or other baited place for the purpose of taking or attempting to take any wild game bird or wild game animal or to put out bait or salt for the purpose of taking or killing any wild game bird or wild game animal, except for the purpose of trapping furbearing animals.
- Chase with dogs or hunt with dogs or to attempt to chase or hunt with dogs any wild animal from a baited site or to train dogs on any wild animal from a baited site. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to place, distribute or maintain bait or salt for any wild animal for the purpose of chasing with dogs, hunting with dogs or the training of dogs. Bait shall mean any food, grain, or other consumable substance that could serve as a lure or attractant; however, crops grown for normal or accepted agriculture or wildlife management purposes shall not be considered as bait. A baited site will be considered to be baited for 30 days following the complete removal of all such bait or salt.
- Shoot or attempt to take any wild bird or animal from any vehicle, except as otherwise provided by law.
- Exceed the bag limit or possess over the daily limit of any wild bird or animal while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state.
- Use live birds or animals to decoy or call game.
- Kill or attempt to kill any deer while in a boat or other type of watercraft.
- Hunt or attempt to kill or trap any species of wild bird or wild animal after having obtained the daily bag or season limit during such day or season. However, any properly licensed person, or a person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such daily bag or season limit while hunting may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs or conducting drives if the weapon in his possession is an unloaded firearm, a bow without a nocked arrow or an unloaded crossbow. Any properly licensed person, or person exempt from having to obtain a license, who has obtained such season limit prior to commencement of the hunt may assist others who are hunting game by calling game, retrieving game, handling dogs, or conducting drives, provided he does not have a firearm, bow or crossbow in his possession.
- Hold in captivity any live wild birds or wild animals outside the limits allowed by regulations without a permit.
- Alter, change, borrow or lend a hunting license or permit.
- Use vehicles or possess firearms while retrieving dogs on private lands without permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive-head arrows.
- Possess or transport any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or the parts thereof, unless specifically allowed and only in accordance with regulations.
- Hunt wild birds and wild animals with fully automatic firearms, (i.e. machine guns).
- Sell or purchase any wild bird or wild animal carcass or parts thereof, except as specifically permitted by law.
- Virginia law specifies that it shall be unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to knowingly and intentionally possess or transport any firearm. A muzzleloading firearm is considered a firearm under Virginia law. Any person prohibited from possessing, transporting, or carrying a firearm under this law may petition the circuit court of the jurisdiction in which he resides for a permit to possess or carry a firearm.
- Intentionally cripple or otherwise harm any game animal for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs. Upon treeing, baying, or otherwise containing an animal in a manner that offers the animal no avenue of escape, the person or the hunting party shall either harvest the animal if within a

legal take season and by using lawful methods of take or terminate the chase by retrieving the dogs and allowing the animal freedom to escape for the remainder of the same calendar day.

- Dislodge an animal from a tree for the intent of continuing a hunt, or chase, or for the purpose of training dogs.
- Use radio tracking equipment, except on dogs or on raptors permitted by a falconry permit, to aid in the chase, harvest or capture of wildlife.

Plan Your Hunt, Hunt Your Plan. Tell Someone Where You Are Going.

Local Firearms Ordinances, Laws and Regulations

The following counties and cities have regulations concerning the use and transportation of firearms. The number or numbers following that county name indicate the regulations listed below for that particular county. In addition, certain counties have ordinances other than those listed, primarily pertaining to possession of firearms near parks or schools, hunting or discharging firearms near populated areas, residences, or buildings and age limitations for possession of loaded firearms on public roads. If a locality is not listed, state firearms restrictions apply (see Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment on page 21).

Accomack 43	Fairfax 2, 25, 45	Lancaster 6, 12, 26	Prince George 7, 9, 32, 42
Albemarle 16, 54	Fauquier 14, 18, 22, 36	Loudoun 22, 54, 62, 63,	Prince William 2, 12, 18
Amherst 18	37, 54	64, 65	Rappahannock 18
Arlington 59	Floyd 18	Louisa 4, 9, 17, 27	Richmond 6, 7, 66, 67
Buckingham 12, 60	Franklin 26	Lunenburg 17	Richmond (city) 54
Caroline 6, 17	Gate City 55	Madison 22, 25, 54	Roanoke 25, 54
Campbell 11, 22	Gloucester 14	Mecklenburg 27	Southampton 3, 8, 19, 41, 42
Charles City 17, 51	Goochland 2, 9, 17, 23	Middlesex 26	Stafford 18, 54
Chesapeake 29, 30, 46	Greensville 15, 21, 22	Nelson 22	Suffolk 44, 52
Chesterfield 7, 14, 22,	Halifax 2, 33, 38, 61	New Kent 8, 12, 25, 54	Surry 7, 53, 54
37, 54, 70	Hampton (city) 31, 45	Newport News 1	Sussex 7, 48, 73
Clarke 25, 54	Hanover 7, 20, 46, 53	Northampton 7, 53	Virginia Beach 2, 7, 18, 54,
Culpeper 18, 22, 54	Isle of Wight 8, 12, 35	Northumberland 17, 26, 42, 54	56, 57, 58
Cumberland 5, 17, 27, 74	James City 40, 54	Orange 18, 22, 34	Warren 54
Danville 54	King George 6, 17, 22, 26, 54	Petersburg 54	Westmoreland 24, 50
Dinwiddie 12, 13, 42	King and Queen 39, 42	Pittsylvania 26	Williamsburg 1, 54
Essex 7, 42, 49	King William 10, 17, 18, 28	Poquoson (city) 68, 69, 71, 72	York 46, 47

1. No discharge of firearms except on approved ranges.
2. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting.
3. Unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot slugs.
4. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs.
5. Lawful to hunt groundhogs with rifles of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire during the season between March 1 and August 31.
6. No rifles larger than .22 for hunting except groundhogs outside of the regular hunting season.
7. No rifles for deer hunting.
8. No rifles for big game hunting.
9. No hunting with shotguns loaded with slugs.
10. No hunting of big game with shotguns loaded with slugs.
11. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within the ditch line of any primary or secondary highway.
12. It is lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for game animals in the regular hunting season.
13. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated 10 feet.
14. It is unlawful to hunt from the road with firearms.
15. It is unlawful to hunt with firearms from the road and within 10 feet of the ditch bank
16. It is unlawful to hunt within 50 feet of the road.

17. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized deer season where firearms are permitted.
18. It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm within 100 yds. of a road.
19. It is unlawful to transport, possess or carry a loaded rifle in any vehicle while on the road from October 1 through February 15.
20. It shall be unlawful to discharge or shoot any firearm or other weapon in or along any public road or street or within 100 yards thereof or within 100 yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers, not his own dwelling or residence.
21. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from October 1 through Feb. 15.
22. It is unlawful to possess a loaded firearm on the road except when permission to hunt is obtained from landowners on each side.
23. It is unlawful to transport or possess loaded shotgun or loaded rifle on the road from sundown to sunrise.
24. No rifles over .22 caliber for hunting except for groundhogs between March 1 and August 31.
25. No hunting with firearms of game species from within 100 yds. of a road.
26. No hunting with firearms of any game animal from the road right of way.
27. No hunting with firearms from the road including ditch to ditch.
28. No hunting with a rifle larger than .22 caliber or shotgun slugs during the deer season.
29. When 100 yds. from a road and elevated from a stand 15 ft. above ground a rifle may be used to hunt big game east of the Dismal Swamp line.
30. It is unlawful to carry a loaded firearm on the road or on the right-of-way.
31. All hunting within the City of Hampton is prohibited, with the exception of shotgun hunting from a licensed blind. No shot larger than 00 buckshot may be used, and no shot shall be discharged landward within 500 feet of the shoreline.
32. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles only from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground; however, this requirement shall be expressly inapplicable to all legally handicapped persons.
33. The use of a muzzleloading rifle shall be permitted during the early muzzleloading season and during the entire regular firearm season for deer hunting.
34. It is unlawful to transport or possess a loaded shotgun or rifle in a vehicle on a road during open deer season.
35. It shall be unlawful to possess outside of a vehicle, or shoot or hunt with a rifle, muzzleloader, pistol, or shotgun loaded with slugs, or to possess shotgun slugs on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area in Isle of Wight County. In addition, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm within 100 yards of the boardwalk or nature trail on Ragged Island Wildlife Management Area.
36. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm from or across any sidewalk, highway or on public land.
37. It is unlawful for minors to carry firearms on public highways or public lands unless accompanied by certain adults.
38. It shall be unlawful to use any ammunition larger than .22 rim-fire while hunting, except rifles up to .25 may be used to hunt groundhogs from March 1 to September 1 with written permission from the landowner.
39. It shall be lawful to use muzzleloading rifles for deer and squirrels during the regular seasons.
40. It shall be unlawful to discharge a rifle larger than .22 caliber, a muzzleloader larger than .36 caliber, or a shotgun loaded with slugs except from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground, except for groundhogs in certain areas between March 1 and September 1.
41. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle at any-time.
42. It shall be unlawful to use a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rim-fire except that groundhogs may be hunted with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire between March 1 and August 31.
43. It shall be unlawful to hunt with a firearm on or within 50 feet of the center of any primary and secondary highway.
44. ***East of the Dismal Swamp Line*** (see page 9 for definition of line) Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, are permitted for big game hunting when used from stands elevated 15 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements); no special early or late muzzleloader seasons in effect.
West of the Dismal Swamp Line (see page 9 for definition of line) No rifles for big game hunting. However, when hunting from a stand 10 feet above the ground (except legally handicapped hunters are exempt from tree stand requirements) muzzleloading rifles are lawful for game species during all open seasons, including special muzzle-loading deer seasons.
45. All rifles, pistols, or shotguns loaded with slugs prohibited for any hunting.
46. Discharging firearms or air-operated or gas-operated weapons prohibited within certain areas: check local county/city ordinances.
47. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 except on approved ranges.
48. Muzzleloading rifles permitted during the special muzzleloading season.
49. Muzzleloading rifles are permitted during any authorized firearms season for the hunting of game animals except for the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season.
50. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt in the county with a shotgun loaded with slugs or a muzzleloading rifle other than during the prescribed open season for the hunting of big game species.

51. It shall be lawful to hunt deer with a rifle of a caliber larger than .22 rimfire during the general firearms deer season provided that any such non-muzzleloading rifle may be used only from a height of 10 feet or more from the ground.
52. It shall be unlawful to discharge a firearm or air gun of .177 caliber or larger within any densely populated area; within 100 yards from any structure or within 100 yards from any public street, secondary road or highway within the city, except on a permitted firing range or at or upon the property of another without permission.
53. It is lawful to hunt deer with muzzleloading rifles.
54. It is unlawful to transport, possess, or carry a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle on any public street, road or highway.
55. It shall be unlawful for any person in the town, except a duly authorized officer in the course of his duty, to fire or discharge any gun, pistol or other firearms of any kind.
56. No discharge of firearms across or within 150 yards of any building, dwelling, street, sidewalk, alley, roadway, public land, or public place.
57. No discharge of firearms north or west of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary; thence northwardly along North Landing Road; thence eastwardly along Indian River Road; thence northeastwardly along New Bridge Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean, or across any land north of False Cape Park and east of Shipp's Bay and Point Creek. No discharge of rifles larger than .22 south of this line except muzzleloading rifles may be used to hunt deer during the firearms deer season.
58. Shotguns firing pellets lawful on certain agricultural lands of fifty contiguous acres or more, and on certain lands south of a line from the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach boundary, thence northeastwardly along Elbow Road; thence southeastwardly along Salem Road; thence northeastwardly along North Landstown Road; thence southeastwardly along Princess Anne Road; thence eastwardly along Sandbridge Road to the Atlantic Ocean. The property must be permitted by the City Manager for this purpose.
59. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot off a firearm in the county. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or shoot or throw any dangerous missiles by mechanical, explosive, air-or gas-propelled means, or similar method or device onto or across any public sidewalk, path, or roadway, at any public structure or building, or at or onto the property of another. It is unlawful for any person to shoot a compound bow, crossbow, longbow, or recurve bow at or upon the property of another without permission. It shall be unlawful to discharge a projectile from any of the aforementioned bows within 100 yards of any public road, public building or structure, private residence or structure, or property of another. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of firearms or other instruments or missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in lawful self defense or in the lawful defense of property, or to prohibit the use of firearms or other missiles or compound bows, crossbows, longbows, or recurve bows in supervised sport, recreation, or training conducted on safety-inspected and approved ranges and courses, provided the same is not contrary to existing law.
60. It is lawful to hunt deer with rifles from stands elevated at least 10 feet above the ground during the regular hunting season.
61. It is unlawful to hunt or attempt to hunt on a primary or secondary state maintained highway, and within the side ditches of such highways.
62. Discharging firearms is prohibited within certain areas (check local county ordinance for area description), except deer hunting is permitted with handguns, shotguns, or muzzleloading rifles using a single projectile and all other hunting is allowed with rifles of .22 caliber rimfire or less, handguns, shotguns, and muzzleloading rifles using single or multiple projectiles.
63. The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 50 yards of a highway in the primary or secondary system of state roads.
64. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of any public park or school.
65. Discharge of firearms is prohibited within 100 yards of a building with a current occupancy permit unless the owner or authorized agent has given permission.
66. Muzzleloaders shall be legal firearms during any firearms season.
67. Shotgun slugs shall be permitted for deer hunting.
68. It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, possess or carry a loaded shotgun, rifle, pistol, or firearm of any nature in any vehicle or on his person over, along or on any public street, road or highway in the city.
69. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge an air gun, spring gun or firearm from, along, across or toward, or within 300 yards of any paved public street, highway or road or any building in the city.
70. It shall be lawful to hunt game species with a muzzleloading rifle during the prescribed open seasons.
71. The discharge or use of a rifle, except for a .22 caliber rim fire is prohibited within the city limits.
72. The use of muzzleloading rifles during the prescribed open seasons for the hunting of game species is permitted in the city; provided, however, that the use of such muzzleloading rifle shall be only from a stand located at least 10 feet above the ground.
73. No rifles for turkey hunting.
74. Unlawful to hunt deer during the regular hunting season with a rifle of .23 caliber or larger either on public lands or in the area of the County bordered to the north by the James River, to the west by Route 602 from the Willis River, and to the south by Route 45 and Route 684 to the County line (*generally known as Cartersville Historic District*); except from a tree stand elevated at least 10 feet above the ground. It shall be lawful to hunt with a muzzleloading rifle from the ground or from a tree stand elevated to any height.

Bear, Deer and Turkey Tag Validation and Checking Requirements

Validation of Bear, Deer and Turkey Tags

- All hunters killing a bear, deer, or turkey, unless the hunter is license exempt, are required to validate an appropriate tag on their bear-deer-turkey license (big game license), bonus deer permit, or special permit (DCAP, DMAP) at the place of kill prior to moving the animal in any way. To validate a tag, successful hunters must completely remove the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- DO NOT detach license or permit tags to attach to the animal. Validation only requires the removal of the designated notch area from the appropriate license or permit tag.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to validate (notch) a bear, deer, or turkey tag from any license or special permit prior to the killing of an animal. **A tag that is mistakenly validated (notched) prior to the killing of an animal must be immediately voided by the licensee or permittee by writing, in ink, the word "VOID" on the line provided on the tag.**
- Hunters killing an elk are required to validate an appropriate deer tag.

Checking Bear, Deer and Turkey

- Bear, deer and turkey must be checked by all successful hunters, including license exempt hunters, upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.
- All deer and spring turkeys must be checked at a check station, by using the telephone, or the Internet.

- All fall turkeys must be checked at a check station. Fall turkeys cannot be checked through the telephone or Internet checking system.
- All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone or Internet checking system.
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any bear, deer or turkey until it is checked. After an appropriate tag has been validated (notched), successful bear, deer and elk hunters are allowed to dismember the carcass to pack it out from the place of kill as long as they do not destroy the identity of the sex and all the parts of the carcass (excluding internal organs) are present when the animal is checked
- Deer checked by telephone or Internet, with the proper confirmation number, are eligible to be entered in the Eastern or Western Regional Big Game Contest or the Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show.
- Spring turkey hunters, who plan to enter a turkey in any big game or trophy contest that requires a certified weight of the turkey, will need to check their turkey at a check station. These contests require a check card for all entries.
- Elk must be checked at a check station. Elk cannot be checked through the telephone or Internet checking system.

Check Stations for Bear, Deer and Turkey

- Check station locations are listed on the Department Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov or call a Department Office listed on page 3 of the digest.

<p>VA RESIDENT BEAR - DEER - TURKEY</p> <p>When moving game from place of kill, license must be notched in the designated area. Game must be checked at authorized check stations. Deer and turkeys may be checked toll free 1-800-GOT-GAME (468-4263).</p> <p>ADDITIONAL LICENSE ALSO REQUIRED</p>	<p>DO NOT REMOVE 2007-08</p> <p>DEER EITHER SEX</p> <p>X5200185200</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>
	<p>DO NOT REMOVE 2007-08</p> <p>DEER EITHER SEX</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>
	<p>DO NOT REMOVE 2007-08</p> <p>DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>
	<p>DO NOT REMOVE 2007-08</p> <p>DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>
	<p>DO NOT REMOVE 2007-08</p> <p>DEER ANTLERLESS ONLY</p> <p>Check Card or Confirmation Number</p>

1. Remove the designated notch area from the appropriate tag on your big game license prior to moving the animal in any way. **Do not remove the tag from your license.**
2. Check your deer or spring turkey by calling 1-866-468-4263, go on the Internet at www.dgif.virginia.gov, or take it to a check station. Bears and fall turkeys must be checked at a check station.
3. **Write the check card number or the confirmation number (from telephone or Internet checking) in ink on the license tag next to the notch.**

- Hunters, checking bear, deer, elk and turkeys at a check station will be given a check card furnished by the Department. The successful hunter shall then immediately write the check card number in ink, on the line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated (notched) at the place of kill.
- Black bears must be checked at an official black bear check station. One or more bear check stations have been established in 72 counties or cities (see page 30). The location of these bear check stations can be obtained from any check station, game warden, or Department office. In counties without established bear check stations, successful hunters may transport their kill to a bear check station in an adjoining county that has an established bear check station and also may have their bear checked by a game warden or by Wildlife Division staff. Department staff may be contacted by calling the VDGIF radio dispatcher (in Richmond, 804-367-1258) or nearest Department office. The successful bear hunter shall surrender, or allow to be removed, one premolar tooth from the carcass. Also the check station operator shall permanently affix a seal, furnished by the Department, to the carcass.
- The check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed.
- If the carcass of an animal that was checked at a check station is left unattended, the check card must be securely attached to the carcass.
- Hunters needing a copy of a lost check card should call the appropriate Department region office listed on page 3.

Telephone and Internet Checking for Deer and Spring Turkey

- When using the telephone checking system:
 - Successful hunters can check their kill by calling a toll-free number, 1-866-GOT-GAME (468-4263).
 - Only touch-tone phones may be used (rotary phones will not work).
- When using the Internet checking system:
 - Successful hunters can check their kill by visiting www.dgif.virginia.gov and clicking on Hunting, then under Links click Check Game Online.
 - Hunters have the option of printing a check card at the end of Internet-checking sessions.
- Only deer (except elk) and spring turkey may be checked using telephone or Internet checking.
- Before using either the telephone or Internet checking system, you will need your big game license, a pen and a piece of paper to record your confirmation number. If you are exempt from purchasing a big game license, you will need your driver’s license number or the last four digits of your social security number.
- Follow the instructions and provide the requested information.
- You will be given a confirmation number at the end of the telephone or Internet session. Write it down. Licensed hunters must then immediately write this confirmation number, in ink, on the

line labeled “check card or confirmation number” of the tag that was validated. **When using the telephone or Internet checking system, be sure that the confirmation number is a letter followed by ten digits. If your telephone or Internet checking session is cut off or your confirmation number is not complete, start the session again and repeat steps until the complete confirmation number is obtained.**

- Shed-antlered buck deer should be entered as an antlered buck with 0 antler points.
- Hunters checking two deer on the same day may get the same confirmation number for both animals. This is okay.

Carcass Transferred or Unattended

- If the kill is reported using the telephone or Internet checking system by a hunter who validated a tag, no personal check card is required as long as the hunter is in possession of the carcass. However, if the carcass is transferred to the possession of another individual or left unattended, a personal check card (see example below) or Internet check card must be created and kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the personal check card or Internet check card must be securely attached to the carcass.
- License-exempt hunters: If the kill is reported using the telephone or Internet checking system by a hunter who is licensed exempt (for example, a landowner who did not have a license tag to validate at the place of kill), the successful hunter must create a personal check card (see example below) or print an Internet check card. The personal check card or Internet check card must be kept in possession with the carcass until the carcass is processed. If the carcass is left unattended, the personal check card or Internet check card must be securely attached to the carcass.

Example of a Personal Check Card

An animal reported using the telephone or Internet checking system will require the creation of a personal check card if:

1. The hunter is license exempt.
2. The carcass is transferred to someone else.
3. The carcass is left unattended.

The personal check card may be written on any type of paper using a pen and must include the hunter’s full name, date of kill and the telephone confirmation number. A check card printed from the Internet may be used in place of a personal check card.

John W. Doe
November 23, 2007
X5200185200

Big Game Hunting Seasons

Bear

Bag Limits:

One per license year, at least 100 pounds live weight or 75 pounds dressed weight (all internal organs removed). Females with cubs may not be harvested.

Archery Bear Season

October 13–November 10: Statewide

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to archery tackle use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 for details.

- Archery tackle only.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical, or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession.
- Unlawful to use dogs.

Muzzleloader Bear Season

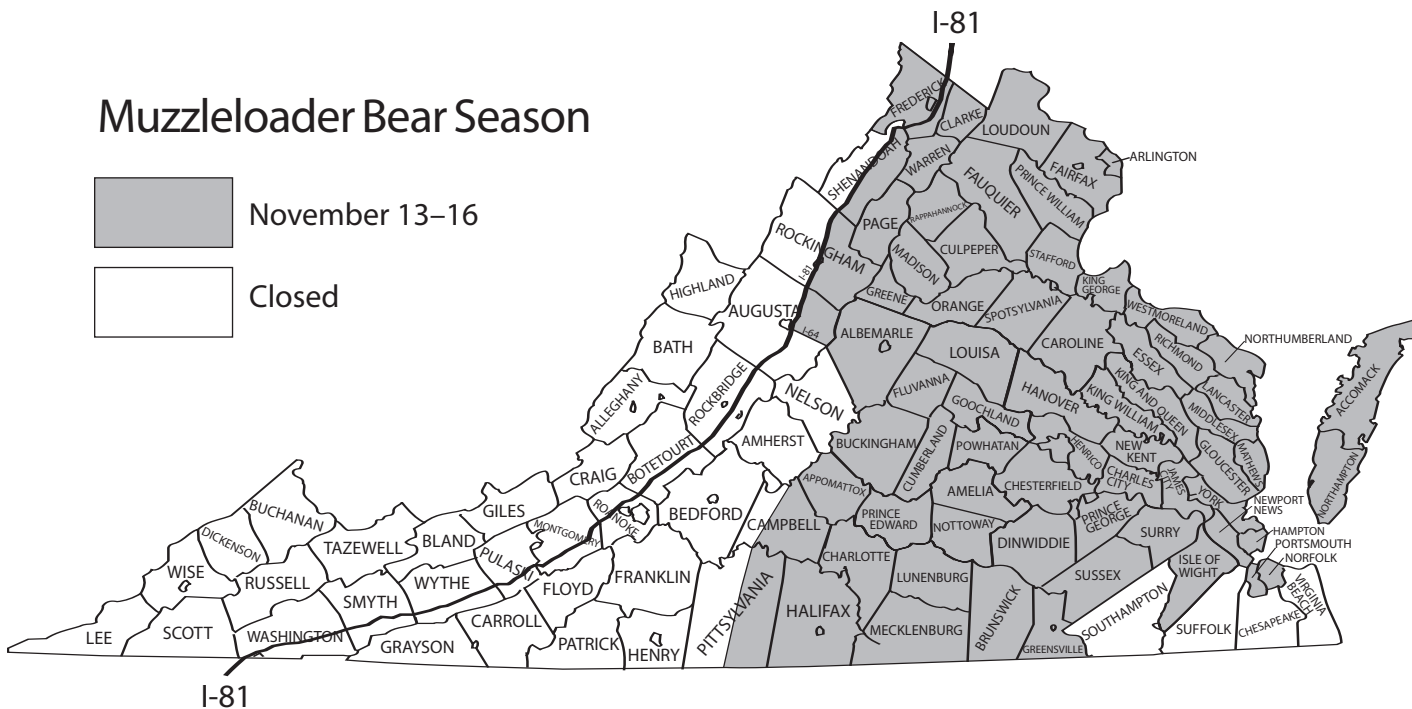
November 13–16: Certain counties, see map below

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Muzzleloading firearms only .
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes are permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader .
- Unlawful to hunt bear with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading weapons designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder of any type in any quantity in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**

Muzzleloader Bear Season



Firearms Bear Season



December 3–15

In the counties of Buchanan, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Grayson, Henry, Lee, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81), Roanoke (south of I-81), Russell, Scott, Smyth (south of I-81), Tazewell (north of Rt. 19 and west of Rt. 16), Washington (south of I-81 or west of Rt. 19), Wise and Wythe (south of I-81), and on the Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas.



November 26–January 5.

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Culpeper, Craig, Giles, Greene, Highland, Madison, Montgomery (north of I-81), Nelson, Page, Pulaski (north of I-81), Rappahannock, Roanoke (north of I-81), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Smyth (north of I-81), Tazewell (south of Rt. 19 or east of Rt. 16), Warren, Washington (that part north of I-81 which is east of Rt. 19), Wythe (north of I-81).

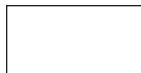
Exception

- Clinch Mountain and Hidden Valley Wildlife Management Areas (see December 3-15 season)



November 5–January 5

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach.



Closed

In the counties of Accomack, Amelia, Appomattox, Arlington, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Caroline, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna,

na, Frederick, Gloucester, Goochland, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, New Kent, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Prince William, Richmond, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, York and the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth.

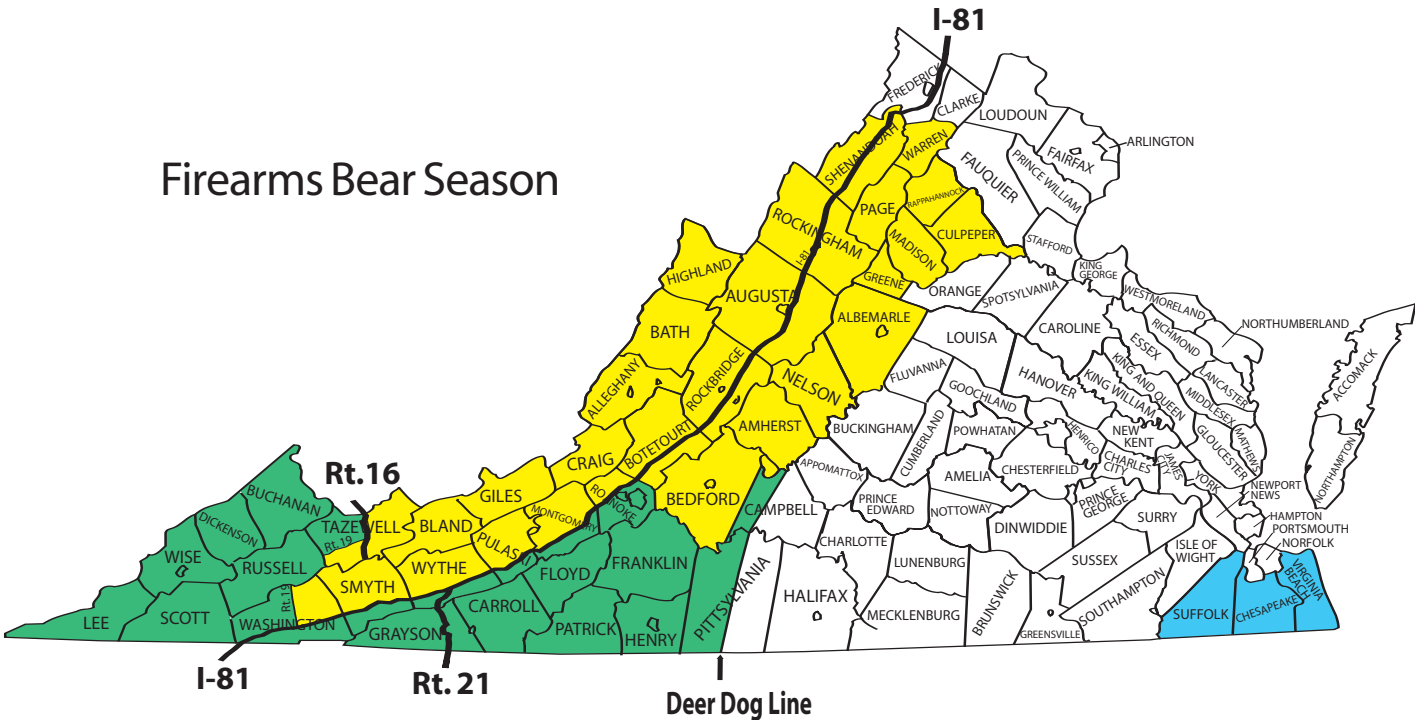
Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms

Dogs May Not Be Used to Hunt Bear:

- During the firearms deer season in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.
- In the counties of Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll (east of the New River), Floyd, Franklin, Grayson (east of the New River), Henry, Montgomery (south of I-81), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Pulaski (south of I-81) Roanoke (south of I-81) and Wythe (south of I-81, east of Rt. 21, north and east of Cripple Creek and southeast of the New River).
- When hunting during the archery or muzzleloading bear seasons.



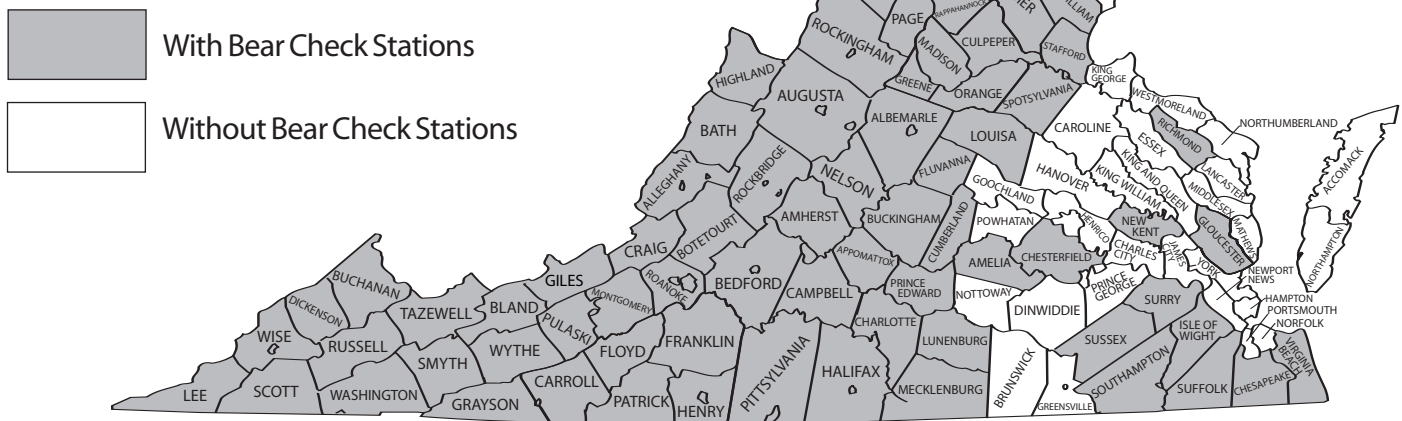
Bear Checking:

All bears must be checked at an official bear check station. Locations for bear check stations are available on the VDGIF Web site or by calling 1-804-367-1000. Bears cannot be checked through the telephone checking system.



©Bill Lea

Counties With Bear Check Stations For 2007



Bear Hound Training Season

NO BLACK BEAR MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON.

Season:

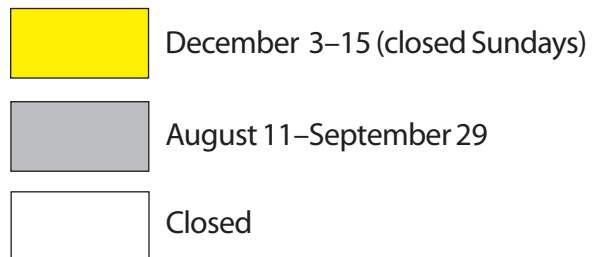
August 11–September 29 (Sundays included)

Certain counties, see map.

December 3–15 (Sundays closed)

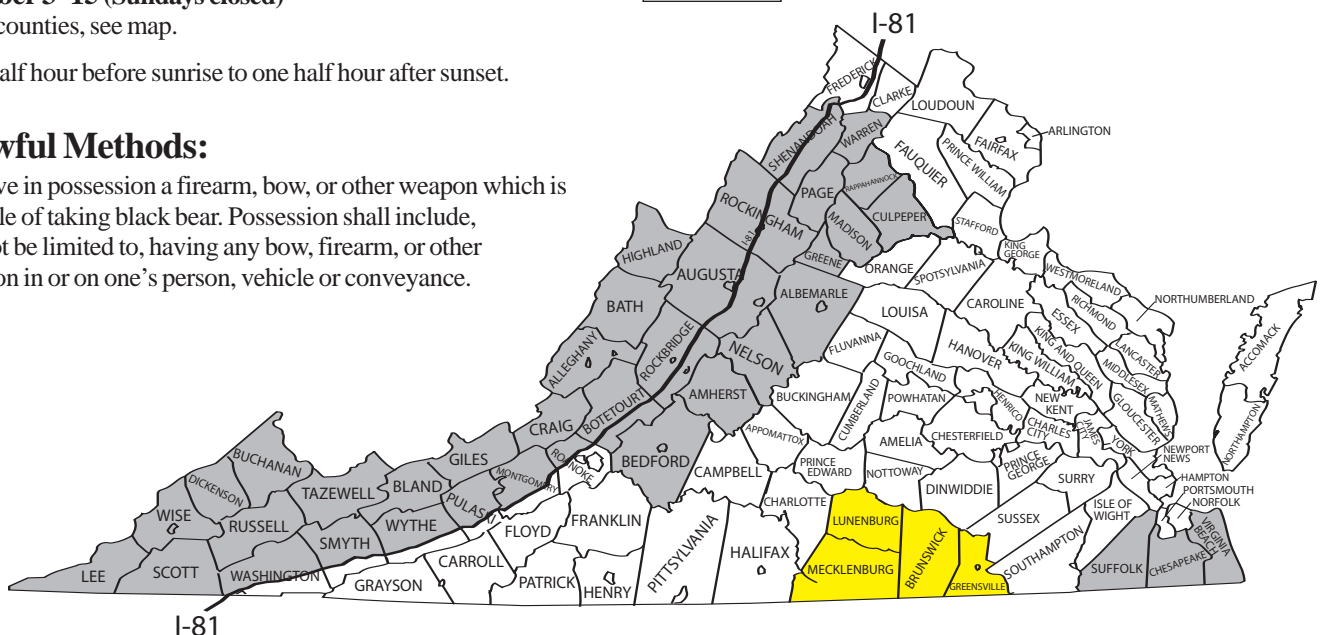
Certain counties, see map.

- One half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.



Unlawful Methods:

- To have in possession a firearm, bow, or other weapon which is capable of taking black bear. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any bow, firearm, or other weapon in or on one's person, vehicle or conveyance.



Deer

General Information

Do Not Feed Deer

Department regulation makes it illegal to place or distribute food, salt or minerals to feed or attract deer from September 1 through January 5, statewide. This prohibition does not include the planting of agronomic crops or wildlife food plots.

Bag Limits:

East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties)

The bag limit for deer shall be two a day, six a license year. Of the six deer limit, no more than three may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer.

West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties

The bag limit for deer shall be one a day and five a license year. Of the five deer limit, no more than two may be antlered deer and at least three must be antlerless deer.

- Only one antlered deer may be taken during the early muzzleloader season per muzzleloader hunter.
- If a hunter kills two antlered deer **in Shenandoah County**, at least one of the antlered deer must have at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on one side.

Bag Limit Exceptions

- Deer hunters, including those exempt from purchasing a license, on private land and authorized public lands may take more than the license-year bag limit by using bonus deer permits or special permits (DCAP and DMAP). See Bonus Deer Permits box on this page
- DCAP and DMAP tags do not count against the daily or season bag limit.

Bonus Deer Permits

- ◆ Are valid for antlerless deer only.
- ◆ Are not restricted to the number that may be purchased and used.
- ◆ Allow deer to be taken in addition to the license year bag limit.
- ◆ Do not allow daily bag limit to be exceeded.
- ◆ Are valid only on private lands and authorized public lands.
- ◆ Are not valid on National Forest and Department-owned lands.
- ◆ Are not valid in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.
- ◆ Are valid during the archery, muzzleloader, and firearms deer seasons.
- ◆ Are valid only on designated either-sex deer hunting days.



Violet Mears of Parksley harvested her first deer in 2006. This was her second season hunting.



©Dwight Dyke

Hunters using tree stands should follow these basic safety guidelines:

- ◆ Use a harness or safety belt to secure yourself to the tree.
- ◆ Never climb with equipment; use a haul line to get your unloaded gun or bow into and out of the tree stand.
- ◆ Keep portable tree stands in good working condition and thoroughly inspect permanent tree stands for loose or rotten boards before using.
- ◆ Stay alert and awake. If you start to nod off, get back to the ground.

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Deer Tags

- **Either-sex deer tags** (commonly called “buck” tags) may be used on antlered or antlerless deer.
- **Antlerless only deer tags** (commonly called “doe” tags) may only be used on antlerless deer.

Antlered and Antlerless Deer

Antlered Deer

- Antlered deer must have antlers visible above the hairline. Virginia does not have a minimum antler length requirement.
- An antlered deer must be tagged with an either-sex deer tag.

Antlerless Deer

- Antlerless deer may only be taken during designated either-sex deer hunting days during the archery season(s), muzzle-loading season(s), and firearms season. Youth deer hunters see Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation provisions below.
- Antlerless deer (does, button bucks, and shed-antlered bucks) may be tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless only deer tag.
- Button bucks, male fawns approximately six months old, are considered antlerless deer. The hair covered bumps on a button buck’s head are not antlers. They are the pedicels from which the antlers will grow the next year.
- Antlered deer that have shed their antlers, usually in late December or early January, are also considered antlerless deer.

Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation

Deer hunters 15 years of age and under, resident or nonresident, may take one antlerless deer per license year on days other than designated either-sex deer hunting days during the muzzleloading season(s) or the firearms season in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day during the firearms deer season. This regulation applies to all public lands (national forest lands, state forests, wildlife management areas, etc.) open to deer hunting except those in Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.

Deer Antlers

- ◆ Buck antlers are true bone that grows from pedicels on the frontal bones of the skull.
- ◆ Annual antler growth generally begins in mid-March to April.
- ◆ A buck’s first set of antlers grows during his yearling spring and summer (e.g., at 1 ½ years-of-age).
- ◆ The growing bone is full of blood vessels and nerves and is covered with hairy skin called “velvet.”
- ◆ Growth continues through August or September. The bone then hardens, and the velvet dries up and falls off.
- ◆ Most antlered bucks in Virginia are in hard polished antler by September 15th.
- ◆ By late December or early January, the antlers fall off in response to changes in day length and decreasing testosterone levels.

**Keep Your Firearms
Pointed in a
Safe Direction.**

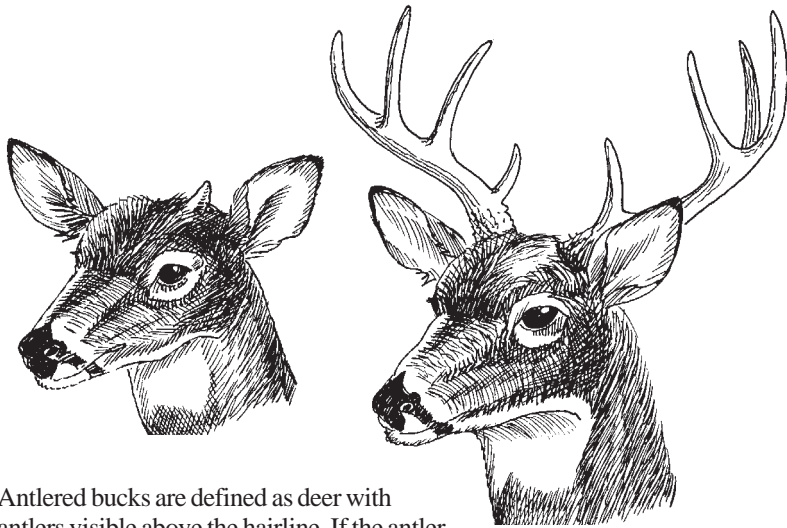


Participants from the Tidewater area gather for youth deer hunt.

©Dwight Dyke.

Antlered or Antlerless?

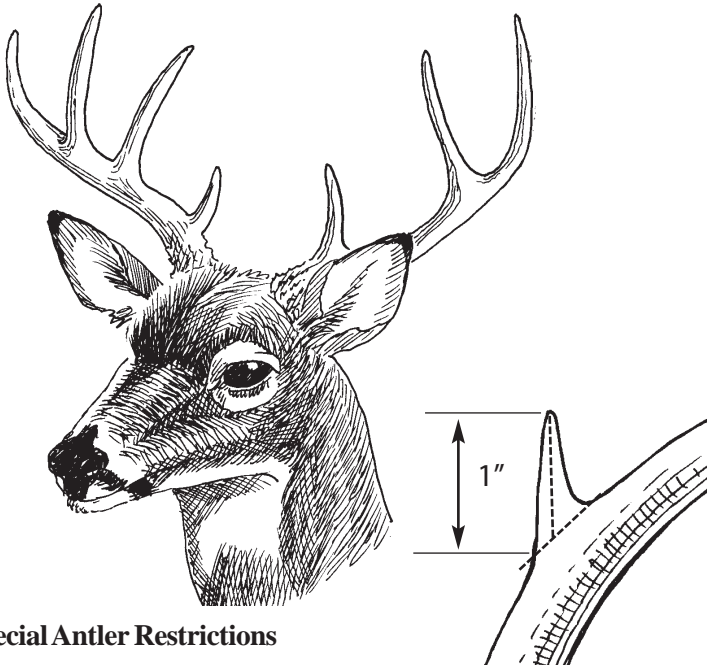
Hunters are sometimes confused about whether a deer they killed should be tagged with an either sex tag (commonly called a “buck tag”) or an antlerless only deer tag. This confusion often occurs when the antler is barely visible or the pedicels are visible.



Antlered bucks are defined as deer with antlers visible above the hairline. If the antler is breaking the skin and protruding above the hairline the deer is considered an antlered deer and must be tagged with an either sex deer tag.



Shed Bucks are often harvested late in the season. These are bucks that have dropped their antlers and only the pedicel or bony base is left on the skull and is usually flush with the hairline. A shed buck is an antlerless deer and is tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless deer tag.



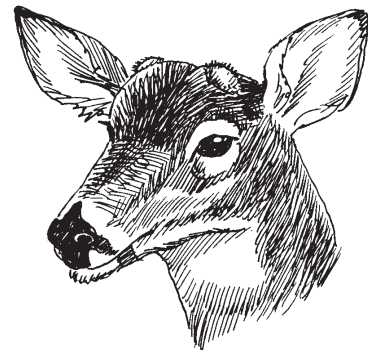
Special Antler Restrictions

Shenandoah County

If a hunter kills two antlered bucks in Shenandoah County, at least one of the bucks must have at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on one side.

Fairystone and Featherfin WMAs

On the Quality Deer Management Area of the Fairystone WMA and Featherfin WMA a legal buck is a deer with at least 4 antler points, 1 inch or longer, on either the right or left antler.



Button bucks or male fawns will have bumps or knobs, known as the pedicels, where the antlers will grow but the bumps or knobs do not break the skin or protrude above the skin. The skin is covering the entire pedicel. These look like buttons on the deer's head thus the term button bucks. Button bucks are considered antlerless deer and are tagged with an either-sex deer tag or an antlerless deer tag.

©illustrations by Spike Knuth

Archery Deer Seasons

Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunting

- Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all archery seasons, unless otherwise noted below.
 - Only antlered deer may be taken during the early and late archery deer seasons on PALS (Public Access Lands) in Dickenson County.

Early Archery Season:

October 6–November 16: Statewide

Late Archery Seasons:

December 3–January 5:

- In all areas west of the Blue Ridge (except Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick County).
- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and Nelson (west of Rt. 151).
- On the Chester F. Phelps WMA and on National Forest lands in Frederick County.

December 1–January 5:

- In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

December 17–January 5:

- In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

Urban Archery Deer Seasons:

September 15–October 5 and January 7–March 29

- Within the incorporated limits of the cities of Colonial Heights, Danville, Emporia, Franklin, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Radford,

Richmond, Winchester and the towns of Altavista, Amherst, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Farmville, Independence, Purcellville, Richlands, Rocky Mount, Tazewell, West Point and in Fairfax County.

- **During these seasons only antlerless deer may be taken.**
- Lists of properties available for hunting *are not* maintained by the Department or local governments.
- Go to www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/special_urban_archery.html for local restrictions and other urban archery information.

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Archery Deer Seasons:

Special restrictions may apply during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Archery tackle only
- Crossbows are legal.
- Broadhead widths must be at least 7/8-inch wide or expand upon impact to 7/8-inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- It is unlawful to use arrows to which any drug, chemical or toxic substance has been added or explosive head arrows.
- It is unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- It is unlawful to use dogs.

Muzzleloader Deer Seasons

Early Muzzleloader Season East of the Blue Ridge (except on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties)

November 3–16:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted east of the Blue Ridge unless noted in the season exceptions listed below.

Season Exceptions:

- National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford, and Nelson counties (see the November 10–16 season).
- Closed in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 3–16 (full season):

- In all areas (including Occoneechee State Park) unless otherwise noted below.
- **November 10:**
On State Forest lands, State Park lands (except Occoneechee State Park), Department-owned lands, and the Philpott Reservoir.

Virginia Bowhunter Survey Participants Needed

In 1997, the Department initiated a statewide bowhunter survey to obtain information on bear, deer, turkey, small game, and furbearer populations. Deer data collected provides important information relative to deer population trends, adult sex ratios, and recruitment. Approximately 300 archers have participated in the past few years. The Department would like to increase the number and distribution of cooperators across the Commonwealth. If you would like to participate in this survey, please indicate your interest and send your mailing address to mike.fies@dgif.virginia.gov. Participants will receive an annual survey form to complete during the early archery deer season and a copy of the results after they are compiled. The Department appreciates your interest and cooperation.

Early Muzzleloader Season West of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties

November 10–16:

- In all areas where deer hunting with a rifle or muzzleloading gun is permitted west of the Blue Ridge and on National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson counties.
- **Antlered Deer Restriction:**
 - Only one antlered deer may be taken per muzzleloader hunter during this season.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 12:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 10–16 (full season):

In Clarke and Floyd counties and on private lands in Frederick, Roanoke and Warren counties.

– Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

In Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties and on portions of Grayson Highlands State Park and National Forest lands in Grayson County.

Late Muzzleloader Season:

December 15–January 5:

- **West of the Blue Ridge** (except Clarke County and on private lands in Frederick County).
- **East of the Blue Ridge** in the counties (including cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad) and in the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

December 31–January 5:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– December 15–January 5 (full season):

In the counties of Amherst (west of Rt. 29, except on National Forest lands), Bedford (except on National Forest lands), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Nelson (west of Rt. 151, except on National Forest lands), Patrick, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and on private lands in Roanoke and Warren counties.

– January 5:

In the counties of Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.

– Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

In Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise counties.

Muzzleloading Either-sex Deer Hunting for Incorporated Cities and Towns:

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during all muzzleloading seasons within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting (except in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson and Wise and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk and Virginia Beach).

Note, there are no either-sex deer hunting days during the early or late muzzleloader deer seasons in Buchanan, Dickenson, or Wise counties. The early muzzleloader deer season in the City of Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line) is full season either-sex. There is no early muzzleloader deer season in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line), and Virginia Beach. In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach during the late muzzleloader deer season, the last six days are either-sex deer hunting days (December 31-January 5). There is no late muzzleloader deer season in the City of Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line).

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Muzzleloader Deer Seasons:

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 23 for details.

- Muzzleloading firearms only.
- Muzzleloading guns must be single shot flintlock or percussion ignition, excluding muzzleloading pistols.
- Must be .45 caliber or larger.
- Scopes permitted.
- Must be able to fire only a single bullet or sabot bullet (.38 caliber or larger projectile).
- Must be loaded from the muzzle of the gun.
- Must use at least 50 grains of black powder or black powder equivalent.
- Smokeless powder is allowed in muzzleloading weapons designed for it. **Never use smokeless powder of any type, in any quantity, in a muzzleloading firearm that is not specifically designed for it.**
- For the purposes of transportation in a vehicle, muzzleloading firearms are considered “unloaded” when all powder has been removed from the flashpan, or the percussion cap has been removed from the nipple. For complete safety, a muzzleloader should be emptied by shooting into soft ground.
- Unlawful to have in immediate possession any firearm other than a muzzleloading gun while hunting with a muzzleloader (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs.
- Unlawful to use muzzleloading pistols.

Firearms Deer Seasons

November 17–January 5:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Accomack, Clarke, Fauquier (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Frederick (see season exception for National Forest lands below), Greensville, Isle of Wight, Loudoun, Northampton, Prince William, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and York.

- In Arlington County, City of Hampton, and City of Richmond. (In the City of Richmond: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting.)
Note: Local Ordinances prohibit the discharge of firearms in these areas (see Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23).
- In the city of Lynchburg (on private lands for which a special permit has been issued by the Chief of Police). In the city of Newport News: archery only, no special permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- To firearms deer hunt on private lands in Fairfax County a special landowner permit is required. Contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 17–January 5 (full season):

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 24 and January 5:**
On the G.R. Thompson WMA.
- **Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
On the Carlisle Tract of the Hog Island WMA and Ragged Island WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.

Season Exception:

November 17–December 1 firearms season on the C.F. Phelps WMA and National Forests lands in Frederick.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

- November 24 and December 1:**
– On National Forest lands in Frederick.
- November 24:**
– On the C.F. Phelps WMA.

November 17–December 1:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Carroll, Grayson, Montgomery, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Roanoke, Shenandoah, and Warren.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 17–December 1 (full season):

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 24, November 30 and December 1:**
On National Forest lands and Department-owned lands in Carroll and Roanoke and on National Forest lands in Botetourt and Montgomery.
- **November 24–December 1:**
On National Forest lands in Amherst, Bedford and Nelson.
- **November 24 and December 1**
On National Forest lands in Shenandoah and Warren and on portions of Grayson Highlands State Park and National Forest lands in Grayson.

November 17–January 5:

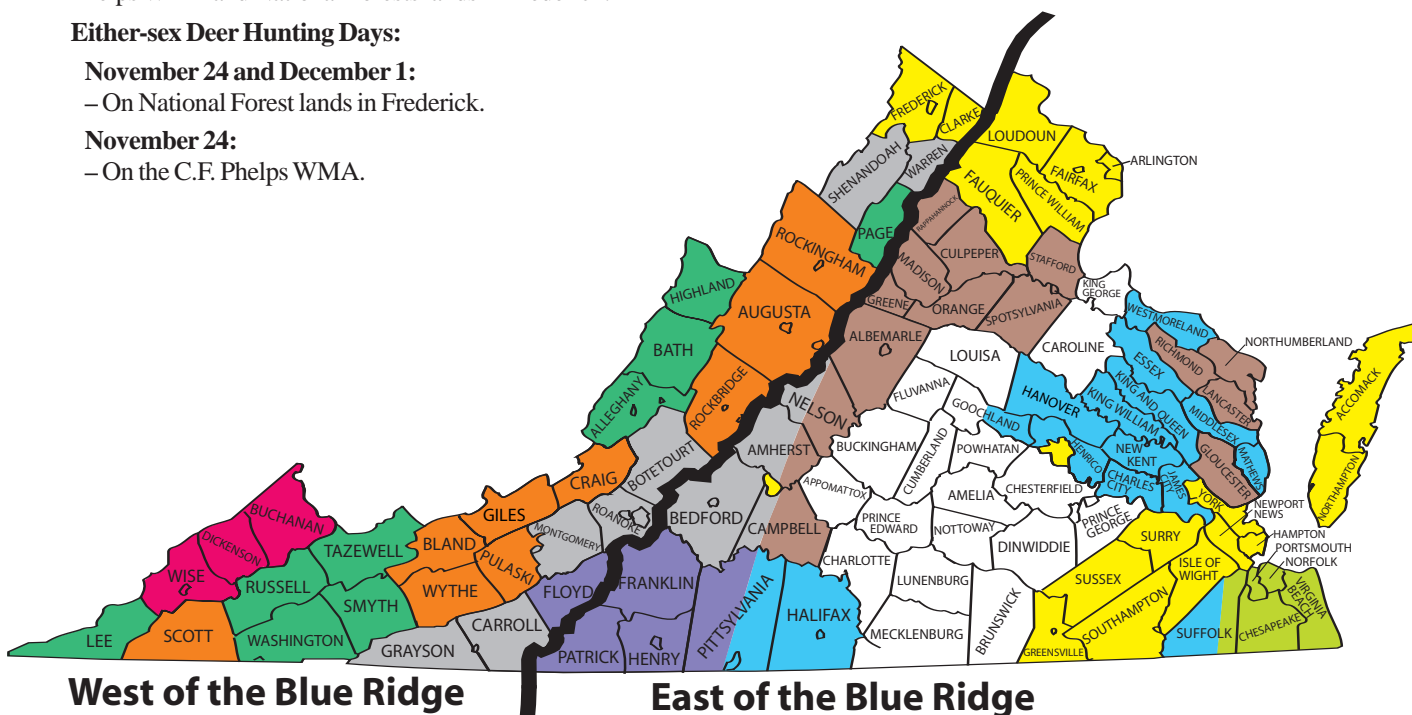
In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Charles City, Essex, Goochland (east of U.S. Route 522), Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, James City, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Pittsylvania (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Westmoreland and in the City of Suffolk (west of the Dismal Swamp line).


Either-sex Deer Hunting Days

November 24, December 1, and December 24–January 5:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

- **November 24 and January 5:**
On the White Oak Mountain WMA.
- **Antlered deer only–no either-sex deer hunting days:**
On the Chickahominy WMA. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.






November 17–December 1:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

- In all areas. Only antlered deer may be taken during the firearms season in these counties. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation does not apply.



November 17–December 1:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Augusta, Bland, Craig, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Scott, and Wythe.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 24–December 1:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 24, November 30 and December 1:


On National Forest lands in Bland, Craig, Giles, Pulaski and Wythe.

– November 24 and December 1:

On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Augusta and Rockbridge and on National Forest lands in Rockingham.

– Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

On National Forest lands in Scott. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.



November 17–January 5:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Caroline, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland (west of U.S. Route 522), King George, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Powhatan, Prince Edward, and Prince George.


Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 24, December 1, and December 31–January 5:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 24:

On the Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland, and Prince Edward State Forests.



November 17–December 15:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad).

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 17–December 15 (full season):


In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 24 and December 10–15:

On Fairystone Farms WMA, Fairystone State Park, and Philpott Reservoir.

– November 24 and December 14–15:

On Turkeycock Mountain WMA.



November 17–December 1:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Lee, Page, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 24, November 30 and December 1:


In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 24 and December 1:

On National Forest and Department-owned lands in Bath and Highland, on National Forest lands in Alleghany, Page, Smyth, Tazewell, and Washington, and on the Clinch Mountain WMA and Hidden Valley WMA.

– Antlered deer only—no either-sex deer hunting days:

On National Forest lands in Lee. Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation applies.



November 17–January 5:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Albemarle, Amherst (east of Rt. 29), Campbell (east of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Culpeper (see season exception for C. F. Phelps WMA below), Gloucester, Greene, Lancaster, Madison, Nelson (east of Rt. 151), Northumberland, Orange, Rappahannock, Richmond, Spotsylvania, and Stafford.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 24, December 1 and December 8–January 5:

In all areas unless otherwise noted below.

– November 24 and December 31–January 5:

On James River WMA.

Season Exception:

November 17–December 1 firearms season on the C.F. Phelps WMA.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

November 24:

– On the C.F. Phelps WMA.



October 1–November 30:

In the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp line) and Virginia Beach.

Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:

October 6 and November 24–30:

– In the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

October 6, 13 and November 24–30:

– In the city of Suffolk (east of the Dismal Swamp Line)

Firearms Either-sex Deer Hunting For Incorporated Cities and Towns

Deer of either sex may be taken full season during the firearms deer season within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth that allows deer hunting (except in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, and Wise and in the cities of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach).

Special Late Antlerless-Only Firearms Deer Season

January 7, 2008–February 2, 2008:

In the counties (including the cities and towns within) of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William.

- To firearms deer hunt on private lands in Fairfax County a special landowner permit is required. Contact the Div. of Animal Control, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 for details. No special police permit is required for archery deer hunting.
- **Either-sex Deer Hunting Days:**
During this season only antlerless deer may be taken.

Legal Methods and Restrictions During Firearms Deer Seasons:

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinance, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms.
- Hunters are allowed to use archery tackle or muzzleloading firearms to deer hunt during the firearms deer season with the following conditions:
 - all hunters are required to comply with the either-sex deer hunting days for the firearms deer season.
 - use of muzzleloading firearms is allowed only if not otherwise restricted.
 - muzzleloader deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season.
 - archery deer hunters must wear blaze orange during the firearms deer season except when hunting in areas where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

Dogs May Not Be Used For Deer Hunting:

- West of the Blue Ridge.
- East of the Blue Ridge in Bedford, Fairfax, Franklin, Henry Loudoun, Northampton, and Patrick counties, and Amherst (west of Rt. 29), Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), and the city of Lynchburg.
- Statewide when hunting during archery and muzzleloading deer seasons.
- On many military areas. Check individual Post regulations.
- On Amelia, Cavalier, Featherfin, Pettigrew, C.F. Phelps, and G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Areas.
- During the first 12 hunting days of the firearms deer season in Madison and Greene counties.

Elk

- Elk of either sex, antlered or antlerless, may be taken during any open deer season using the weapons legal for deer during that season.
- The taking of an elk counts towards the hunter's daily and license year bag limit for deer.
- Licenses, tag validation, and checking requirements for elk are the same for deer except that **elk must be checked at a check station.**
- It is unlawful to destroy the identity (sex) of any harvested elk until checked. Elk may be dismembered to pack it out from the place of kill. The identity of the sex and all parts of the carcass must be present when the elk is checked.

Successful elk hunters are asked to contact the Wildlife Division of the Department's Marion Regional Office at (276)-783-4860 as soon as possible after killing an elk so that arrangements can be made to collect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) samples. CWD testing is voluntary.

2007 Virginia Big Game Contest

**Western Regional
September 8–9, 2007
Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Harrisonburg**

**Eastern Regional and
State Championship
September 22–23, 2007
Southampton County Fairgrounds
Franklin**

For additional information and directions go to
www.vpsa.org or www.iwla-rh.org

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association and the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chapter Izaak Walton League of America.

Deer checked by Internet or telephone with the proper confirmation number are eligible to be entered in the Eastern or Western Regional Big Game Contest.

Turkey

Bag Limits:

General: One per day, three per license year, no more than two of which may be taken in the fall.

Archery and Fall Firearms Season: Turkeys of either sex may be taken.

Spring Gobbler Season: One per day, bearded turkeys only.

Archery Turkey Season

October 6–November 10: Statewide

- Except in counties where there is a closed firearm season on turkey.

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Archery tackle only.
- Decoys and blinds may be used.
- Broadhead widths must be at least $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch wide or expand upon impact to $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch.
- Bows must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession (see exception for concealed handguns on page 21).
- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with archery tackle during the archery season.

Fall Firearms Turkey Seasons



October 27–November 9, November 22 and December 10–January 5.

In the counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Goochland, Grayson, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, King and Queen, King William, Lee, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince William, Pulaski, Rapahannock, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise, and Wythe and on Camp Peary.



October 27–November 9 and November 22.

In the counties of Buchanan, Isle of Wight, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, and Sussex.



October 27–November 9, November 22 and December 10–22.

In the counties of Charles City, Gloucester, James City, King George, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond, Westmoreland, and York (except on Camp Peary).

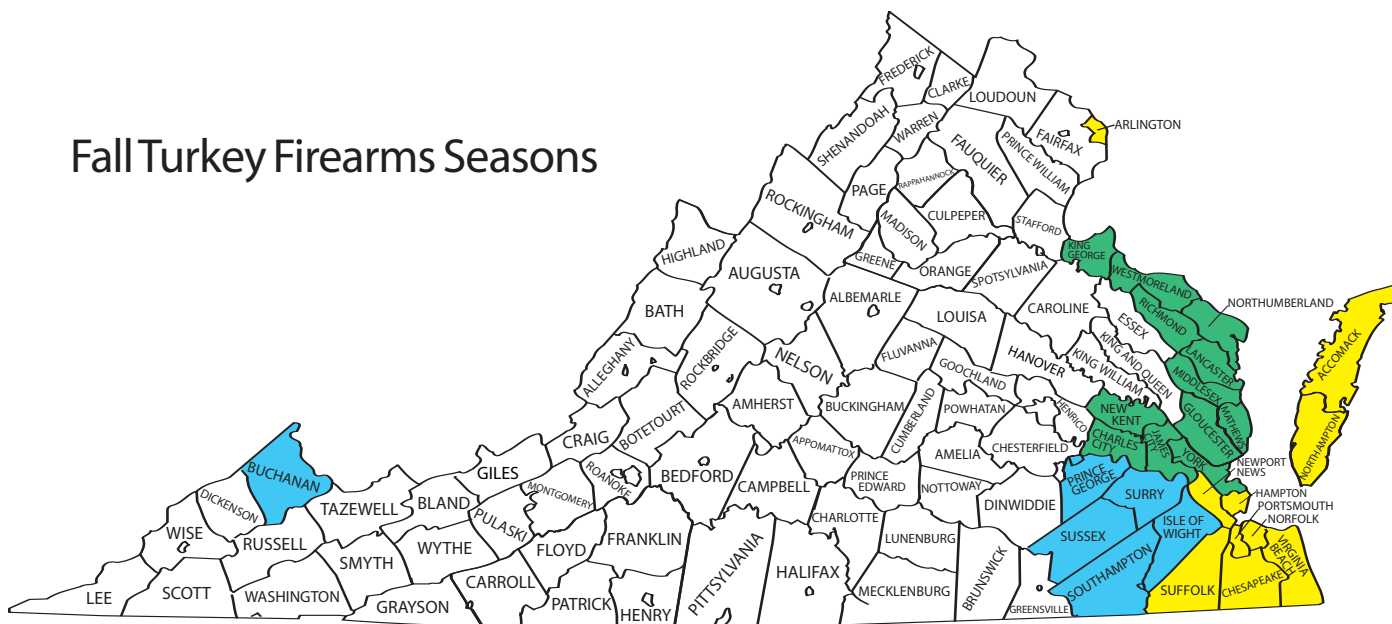


Closed.

In the counties of Accomack, Arlington, and Northampton and in the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.

continued on page 40

Fall Turkey Firearms Seasons



Legal Methods and Restrictions for Firearms Turkey Season

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys, blinds, and dogs may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls



©Lloyd B. Hill

Spring Gobbler Season

Bag Limit:

One per day, bearded turkeys only. Hunters may take one, two or three bearded turkeys depending on how many turkeys were taken in the fall season.

Seasons: Statewide

April 12–May 3:

- One-half hour before sunrise until 12 noon each day.

May 5–May 17:

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

April 5: Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

- One-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- Youth hunters (resident or nonresident) must be 15 years of age or younger to participate.
- Youth hunters between the age of 12 and 15 must have appropriate valid hunting licenses (see pages 7-8). Hunters under the age of 12 are not required to have a license, but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult.
- All youth must be accompanied and directly supervised and within sight of an adult. Adult hunters accompanying youth must possess a valid Virginia hunting license (or be exempt from purchasing a hunting license); may assist with calling; and shall not carry or discharge a firearm.

Legal Methods and Restrictions for Spring Gobbler Season

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Decoys and blinds may be used
- Unlawful to use electronic calls
- Unlawful to use dogs during spring gobbler season
- When using a shotgun it is unlawful to use or have in possession any shot larger than number 2 fine shot during spring gobbler season



©Bruce Ingram

Share the hunting experience with your child.

Small Game Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Dogs may be used by regulation (see Hunting with Dogs, pg. 20)
- Electronic calls

Crow

Season:

August 18–March 15 on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday only.

Crows are a federally regulated migratory species, no HIP number is required to hunt them. Crow hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday only).

Groundhog

Season:

Continuous open season on private lands. Groundhog hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys.

Grouse

Bag Limit:

Three per day.

Season:

October 27–February 9 west of I-95
Continuous closed season east of I-95

Grouse Facts

- ◆ Average grouse clutch size is 9.9 eggs.
- ◆ Grouse incubation begins about May 1.
- ◆ Adult females begin to nest earlier than juvenile female birds.
- ◆ Predation and weather can affect the success or failure of grouse nests.
- ◆ Normally about 66% of grouse nests are successful.
- ◆ Of those that fail in their first nesting about 23% will attempt a second nest.

Quail and Pheasant

Bag Limits:

Quail: six per day
Pheasant: no daily or seasonal bag limit

Season:

November 10–January 31

Rabbit

Bag Limit:

Six per day

Season:

November 3–February 14.

Squirrel (Gray, Red, and Fox*)

*Fox squirrels open only in the counties west of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Culpeper, Fauquier, Loudoun, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock during any authorized squirrel season.

Bag Limit:

All squirrels combined - six per day.

Seasons:

September 1–January 31: statewide

Spring Season: June 7–21, 2008

Allowed only on the following Wildlife Management Areas :
Amelia, Big Survey, Briery Creek, Chickahominy, Dick Cross Dismal Swamp, Fairystone (including Fairystone State Park and Philpott Reservoir), Goshen, Havens, Hog Island (Carlisle Tract only), Horsepen, James River, Pettigrew, Phelps, Powhatan, Thompson, Turkeycock Mountain, and White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Areas.

- Fox squirrels may only be harvested on Big Survey, Goshen, Havens, Phelps and Thompson Wildlife Management Areas.
- Hunting squirrels with dogs is not allowed during the spring season.

Shooting Preserves

Pen-raised game birds may be taken on licensed shooting preserves from September 1 through April 30. A list of operated shooting preserves open to the public may be obtained from the Permits Section at the Department's Richmond office (804-367-1000) or at www.dgif.virginia.gov. A state resident hunting pen-raised game birds on a licensed shooting preserve is required to have either a state or county resident hunting license. A nonresident is required to have either a state nonresident license (\$85.00) or a special nonresident shooting preserve license (\$17.00) which is valid only within the boundaries of licensed shooting preserves.

Furbearer Hunting Seasons

Legal Methods and Restrictions

Special restrictions apply to specific firearms use during this season. See Legal Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment, pg. 21 and Local Firearms Ordinances, pg. 23 for details.

- Modern firearms
- Archery tackle
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Dogs may be used (except where prohibited, see Hunting with Dogs, pg. 20)
- Electronic calls (except on National Forest lands)
- Hunting permitted day or night
- Lights may be used as long as the light is not attached to or cast from a vehicle

Bobcat

Bag Limit:

Two per hunting party taken between noon one day and noon the following day. Season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats taken by hunting and trapping combined.

Archery

Season:

October 6 – 31: statewide

Legal Methods and Restrictions

- Unlawful to use dogs when hunting with bow and arrow or cross-bow during the bobcat archery season.
- Unlawful to have a firearm in possession. (See exception for concealed handguns on page 21.)

Firearms

Season:

November 1–February 29: statewide

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt bobcat during deer season

- In the counties of Alleghany, Amherst (west of Route 29), Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Nelson (west of Rt. 151), Page, Pittsylvania (west of Norfolk Southern Railroad), Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Coyote

Season:

Continuous open season on private lands. Coyote hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys.

Coyote Bounty Law

While coyotes are not protected, live coyotes may not be imported or possessed in Virginia. Counties have the option of establishing their own coyote bounty system. For more information, hunters and trappers should contact their County Administrator or County Board of Supervisors.

Fox

Hunting With Dogs and Firearms

Season:

November 1–February 29. Closed in Albemarle, Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier (except Quantico), Loudoun, Louisa, and Rappahannock counties.

Dogs May Not Be Used:

To hunt foxes during deer season

- On the Gathright, Goshen, Highland and Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Areas and within the boundaries of the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests.

Hunting With Dogs Only

Continuous open season statewide; closed February 1–October 31 on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forests and on Gathright, Goshen, G. Richard Thompson, Highland, Little North Mountain, and Rapidan WMAs.

Restrictions:

- To have in possession a firearm when hunting fox outside of the dog and gun fox season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having any firearm in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance

Tagging Requirement

No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Electronic Calls

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take wild animals and wild birds with recorded or electronically amplified calls, except for bobcat, coyote, crow, and fox. Electronic calls may be used to take crows on both private and public lands (including National Forest). Electronic calls may be used to hunt bobcats, foxes and coyotes on private lands with written permission of the landowner and on public lands (except National Forest and other lands where specifically prohibited). It is unlawful to use electronic calls on National Forest lands for hunting any species, except crows.

Opossum

Season:

October 15–March 10: statewide

Skunk

Season:

Continuous open season to take striped skunk on private lands. Striped skunk hunting on National Forest Lands and Department Lands is permitted from September 1–March 10 and during time periods when it is legal to hunt spring turkeys. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunks and the pelts of spotted skunks may not be sold.

Raccoon

Legal Methods and Restrictions:

- Unlawful to have in possession a firearm, bow, axe, or any tree climbing device when chasing raccoons outside of the firearms season. Possession shall include, but not be limited to, having these devices in or on one's person, vehicle, or conveyance while engaged in the act of chasing.

Firearms

Season:

October 15–March 10: statewide

Bag Limit:

East of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunter taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

West of the Blue Ridge: Two per hunting party (individual or organized) taken between noon one day and noon the following day.

Chase Only

NO RACCOON MAY BE TAKEN DURING THIS SEASON

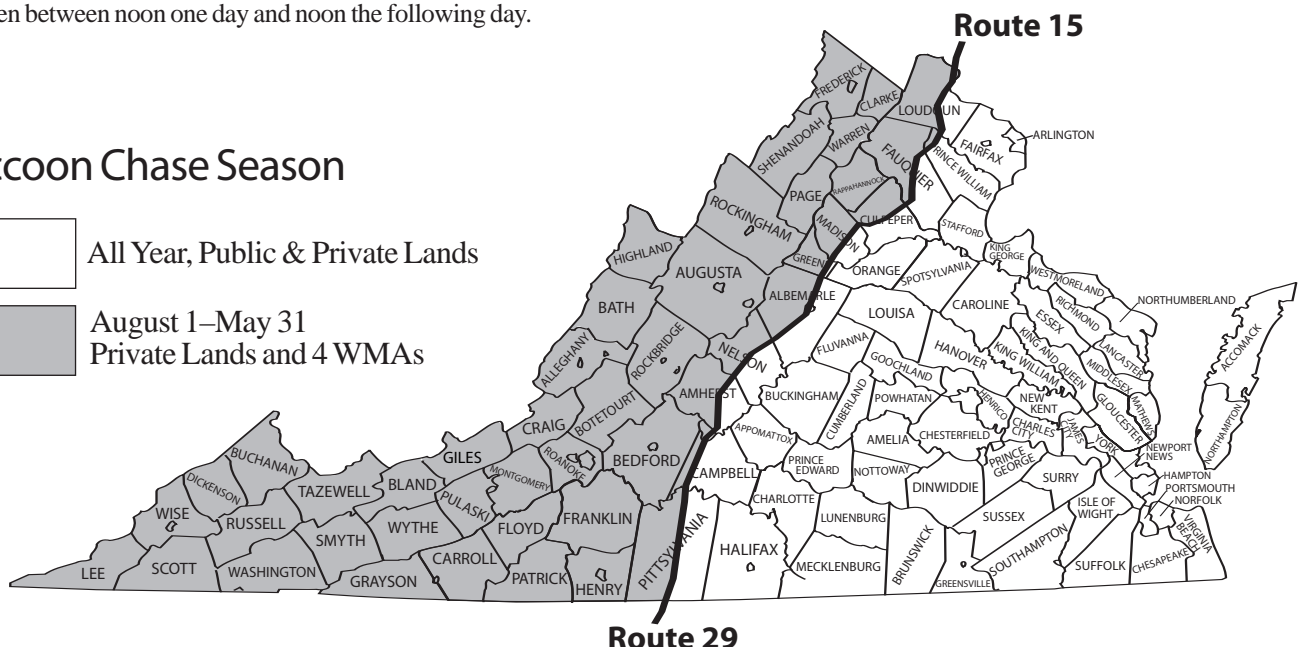
Season:

Continuous open season in all counties and portions of counties east of Rt. 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (east of Rt. 15) and Prince William (east of Rt. 15).

August 1–May 31 On private lands in all counties and portions of counties west of Route 29 and in the counties of Loudoun (west of Rt. 15) and Prince William (west of Rt. 15) **and on** Fairstone Farms, G. Richard Thompson, Rapidan and Turkeycock Wildlife Management Areas.

Raccoon Chase Season

-  All Year, Public & Private Lands
-  August 1–May 31
Private Lands and 4 WMAs



Route 29

Route 15

Furbearer Trapping Seasons

General Regulations

Residents under 16 years of age do not need a license to trap when accompanied by any person 18 years of age or older who possesses a valid state or county license to trap. Trappers using box traps for rabbits do not need a license, but permission of the landowner is necessary. County residents 65 years of age and over do not need a license to trap on private property in county of residence. National Forest lands will be open during the regular trapping seasons. Trappers must visit all traps once each day to remove all animals caught therein. Check local ordinances before trapping near highways.

Trapping on Department-owned or controlled lands and waters is allowed under the regulations of the Board unless prohibited by posted rules. The posted rules may require written authorization to trap on some areas or may specify other restrictions.

It is lawful to set traps in water from December 1 through the last day of February, both dates inclusive, and at anytime within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York, except as otherwise specifically provided by department permit or by local ordinances.

Any person setting or in possession of a steel foothold or body gripping trap or snare shall have it marked by means of a nonferrous metal tag bearing his name and address. This requirement shall not apply to landowners on their own land, nor to a bonafide tenant or lessee within the bounds of land rented or leased by him, nor to anyone transporting any such trap from its place of purchase.

The use of body gripping traps with a jaw spread in excess of 7 1/2 inches is prohibited except when such traps are covered by water.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any steel foothold trap with teeth set upon the jaws or with a jaw spread exceeding 6 1/2 inches.

It is unlawful to set above the ground any body gripping trap with a jaw spread in excess of 5 inches when using any bait, lure or scent. However, baited body gripping traps with a jaw spread

between 5 and 6 1/2 inches may be used within an enclosure with openings no greater than 60 square inches and the trap trigger recessed at least 12 inches from all openings (see diagram below). Traps must be staked to prevent enclosures from turning over and may only be used on private lands with written permission of the landowner.

No deadfalls traps may be used. Snares set on land must have loops less than 12 inches in diameter with the top of the snare loop no more than 12 inches above the ground. Land snares may only be used with written permission of the landowner.

It is unlawful to willfully molest, damage, or remove any trap, or any lawfully caught bird or animal from or in any way disturb traps or snares legally set by another person.

No trapping of furbearing animals within 300 yards of First Landing/Seashore State Park and the Virginia Marine Science Museum in the City of Virginia Beach.

No trapping within 50 feet of a highway in Clarke, Fauquier, and Loudoun counties.

Trapping Seasons

There is a continuous open season to trap beaver, muskrat, opossum and raccoon within the incorporated limits of any city or town in the Commonwealth, and in the counties of Arlington, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Roanoke and York.

Beaver

December 1–February 29

Bobcat

November 15–February 29

Bag limit: The season bag limit shall be 12 bobcats in the aggregate, taken by hunting and trapping combined.

No bobcat pelts may be tanned, mounted, sold, traded, or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All bobcat pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Coyote

Continuous open season.

Fox

November 15–February 29

Fox trapping is prohibited in Clarke (except on G. Richard Thompson WMA), Fauquier (except on Chester F. Phelps WMA and G. Richard Thompson WMA), Loudoun, and Rappahannock counties.

Mink

December 1–February 29

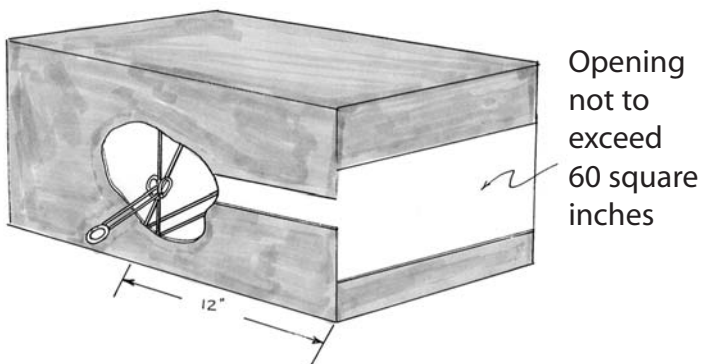


illustration by Mike Fies

Muskrat

December 1–February 29.

Nutria

Continuous open season

Opossum

November 15–February 29

Rabbit

May be taken with box traps from October 15–January 31 provided no traps shall be set on the lands of another without written permission of the landowner.

Raccoon

November 15–February 29

Skunk

Continuous open season for striped skunk. Continuous closed season for taking spotted skunk and the pelts of spotted skunk may not be sold.

Weasel

December 1–February 29

Otter

December 1–February 29

In in all counties east of the Blue Ridge and in the counties of Augusta, Alleghany, Bath, Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Wythe.

Bag Limit

The season bag limit shall be 2 otters in counties west of the Blue Ridge where otter trapping is permitted. There is no season bag limit in counties east of the Blue Ridge.

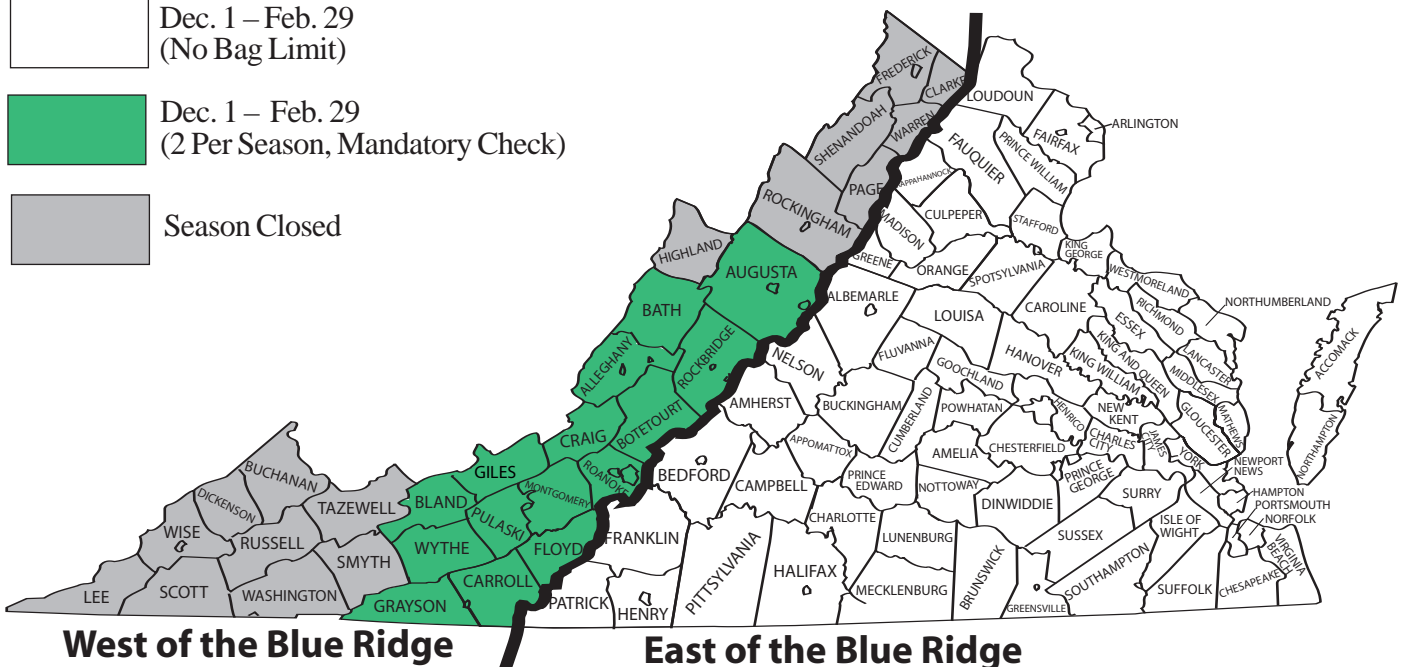
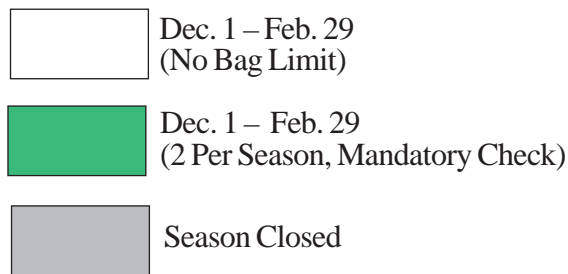
Mandatory Check-in Requirements

The entire skinned carcass of all otters trapped in counties west of the Blue Ridge where trapping is permitted must be presented to an agent of the Department within 3 days of capture. For more information on submitting otter carcasses contact your nearest regional office listed on page 3.

Tagging Requirement

No otter pelts may be sold, traded or shipped out of state until sealed by an agent of the Department. All otter pelts must be sealed by April 1.

Otter Trapping Season



Outreach Programs and Events

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Outdoor Education Program offers exciting programs such as Becoming an Outdoors Woman®, Virginia Outdoors Weekend, Mother & Daughter Outdoors, and Women in the Outdoors (co-sponsored with the National Wild Turkey Federation) and various species-specific educational hunting workshops. Each of the programs offered to the public are hands-on educational activities lead by enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and professional instructors in a highly supportive atmosphere.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman®

This program is designed primarily for women whose outdoor exposure has been limited. The three-day events (Friday–Sunday) offer a variety of 4-hour classes geared towards beginners. Participants can choose from shooting sports, angling, boating and non-consumptive educational courses. The courses offered may include, but are not limited to, intro to shotgun, rifle, archery, hunting techniques for game species, fly-fishing, bass fishing, boating, camping, wilderness survival, and outdoor cooking. Weekends are held in rustic yet comfortable settings. Participants in the Becoming an Outdoors Woman® programs must be at least 18 years of age.

Virginia Outdoors Weekend

Designed to give the entire family a chance to add to their outdoor experience, the Virginia Outdoors Weekend is a three-day event (Friday–Sunday) taught at various locations across the state. The focus is on learning outdoor skills through hands-on courses such as, but not limited to, intro to skeet shooting, rifle, archery, hunting techniques for game species, fly-fishing, basic fishing, boating, camping, wilderness survival, outdoor cooking, and many others.

Mother & Daughter Outdoors

The Mother & Daughter Outdoors program is designed primarily for women. It provides an excellent opportunity for anyone 9 years of age and above to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful in a variety of outdoor pursuits. The courses offered at this 2–3 day event are similar in content to the BOW and the Virginia Outdoors Weekend events. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Women in the Outdoors

Co-sponsored with the National Wild Turkey Federation, this day program is designed primarily for women 14 and over. Participants can enjoy learning new skills, meeting people with similar interests, and getting involved in outdoor activities. These events offer classes that range from fly fishing, shooting sports, and turkey hunting to mountain biking, canoeing, and bird watching. Events are held throughout the state.

Educational Hunting Workshops

An educational experience focused on knowledge and skill development for specific species. Educational workshops may cover squirrel, dove, upland bird, waterfowl, turkey or deer. Workshops are designed in partnership with hunting organizations and community groups. They are designed for youth, novice and disabled hunters.

Educational Angling Workshops and Other Events

An educational experience focused on knowledge and skill development for specific fish species. Workshops are designed in partnership with angling organizations and community groups. They are designed for youth and novice anglers.

National Archery in the Schools–NASP

A standardized archery program designed to train educators the NASP curriculum so it can be taught to youth from elementary to high school. Training is conducted in 8 hours.

For information or registration forms for any of these programs visit the
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov, Click on Education.

Outdoor Education Program
804-357-6355 or 804-367-0656, OutdoorEd@dgif.virginia.gov
4010 West Broad St., Richmond, VA 23230

2007-2008 Hunting and Trapping Annual



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Special Youth Regulations and Opportunities

“We protect what we appreciate, we appreciate what we understand, and we understand what we are taught... take your son or daughter hunting and fishing; teach them the wonders of nature. We all will be better for it and our rich outdoor sports traditions will be passed to the next generation.”

The future of our rich hunting heritage depends on passing traditions and skills to the next generation. We have partnered with many organizations and individual volunteers to improve regulations to favor youth hunting opportunities and provide training in safety, ethics and skills development. This new section provides a quick reference to the special hunting opportunities, licenses and hunter skills training that are available for youth, under the age of 16.

Be sure to refer to the appropriate section in the Digest for detailed information to ensure all regulations are followed.

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirements

See page 6 for details.

All persons who are 12–15 years of age are required to present a Hunter Education Certificate in order to purchase a hunting license. Certificates are obtained by completing a 10- hour Hunter Education Course. Official courses are offered free of charge throughout the Commonwealth. To learn about courses available in your area, call 866-604-1122, or check the Department’s Web site.

A hunting license may be issued without presenting a Hunter Education Certificate to any person under the age of 12 as long as the Youth is directly supervised within sight of an adult when hunting. The supervising adult must possess a valid Virginia hunting license.

Youth Hunting Licenses and Permits

See pages 7-8 for details.

There are a variety of affordable license options for youth under the age of 16, depending on their skill and interest level. Licenses available to youth hunters include:

- **Resident Junior licenses to hunt statewide** ranging in cost from \$7.50 to \$15.00.
- **Nonresident Youth licenses** ranging in cost from \$12.00 to \$30.00
- **Combination licenses** to hunt deer, bear and turkey and **Life-time licenses** are also available.

Note that **youth residents under the age of 12 are not required to obtain a license to hunt** provided they are accompanied and directly supervised within sight of an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on their person.

The resident or non-resident children and grandchildren of resident or non-resident landowners **do not need a license** to hunt, trap or fish within the boundaries of their own lands and inland waters.

Special Youth Big Game Hunting Opportunities

There is a **Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation** which allows hunters 15 years of age and under, resident or nonresident, to harvest one antlerless deer per license year on days other than those designated as either-sex deer hunting days. This regulation extends during the muzzleloading seasons or the firearms season in all counties that have at least one either-sex deer hunting day. See page 32 for details

On Saturday April 5, there is a **Special Spring Turkey Hunt** for youth, one-half hour before sunrise to 12 noon, statewide. Only youth hunters between the ages of 12 and 15 with the appropriate valid hunting licenses may hunt. Hunters under the age of 12 are not required to have a license. All youth must be directly supervised and within sight of an adult possessing a valid Virginia hunting license. The adult may assist with calling, but shall not carry or discharge a firearm. See page 40 for details.

Quota Hunts and Managed Hunts for Youth

See pages 62-70 for details.

Quota Hunts and Managed Hunts provide unique opportunities for youth and novice hunters to experience a variety of hunting opportunities in specially selected sites at refuges and management areas throughout the state. Designated hunt dates and sites are reserved for waterfowl, deer, turkey and small game. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult. Hunters are required to apply pre-season and be selected by random drawing to hunt. A non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 may be required for some hunts. A hunter may apply by mail, telephone or through the Department’s Web site. Hunters will be notified by mail if selected or not selected for each hunt applied.

Youth Outreach Programs and Events

Outreach programs offered to the public are hands-on educational activities led by enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and professional instructors in a highly supportive atmosphere. Game hunt events that include Squirrel Hunts, Dove Hunts, Generation and Women’s Deer Hunts, and Women’s Upland Game Hunts are designed for novice hunters.

Numerous conservation organizations including National Wild Turkey Federation JAKES Program, Ducks Unlimited GREENWINGS program, Izaak Walton League, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation Hunting Heritage Partnership, 4-H Shooting Sports Program and many more provide events and opportunities in partnership with the Department. For information or registration forms for any of these programs visit the Department’s Web site.

What Are These Abundance Maps and What Do They Mean?

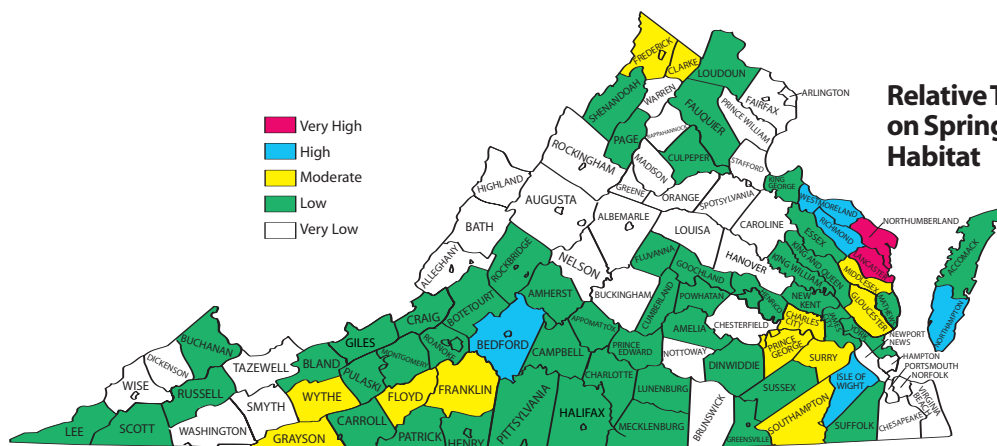
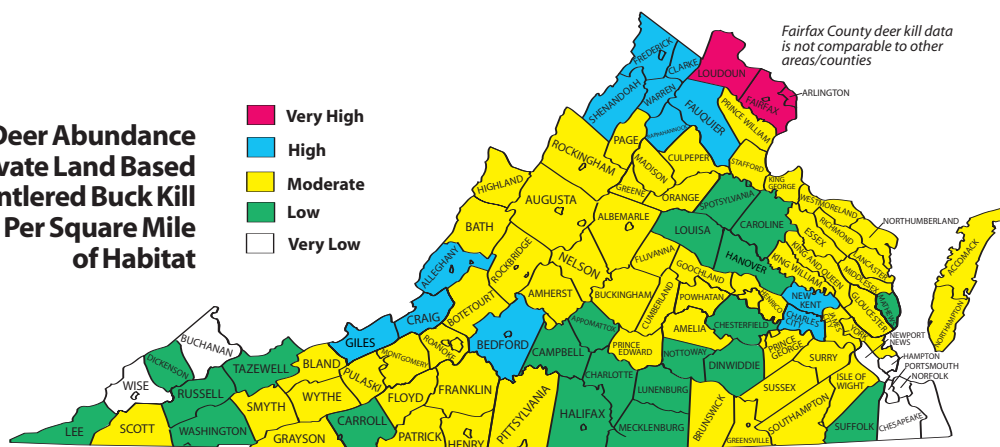
Each year when the annual deer, bear, and turkey kill data become available, newspapers across the Commonwealth publish a list of the “Top 10” counties based on the total harvests in each county; many hunters automatically assume that the “Top 10” counties must be the best places to hunt. This can be misleading. The fact is, total kill numbers may be a poor way to compare game populations and hunter success among counties. For example, Pittsylvania County deer hunters routinely kill about 4,400 deer each year. Because Clarke County deer hunters only kill about 1,740 each year, Pittsylvania County must be a better deer hunting area than Clarke County, correct? That is incorrect. While the total deer kill is much

higher in Pittsylvania County (the largest county in the state) than in Clarke (one of the smallest), the deer kill per square mile of habitat is actually much higher in Clarke County, resulting in Clarke County being a better deer hunting area than Pittsylvania County.

The best way to compare populations and hunting potential among areas is based on the kill per square mile of habitat. The following maps show the relative differences among counties in the kill per square mile of deer (antlered bucks), bears, and turkeys (spring gobblers). These maps also indicate the relative densities of deer, bears, and turkeys among counties across Virginia.



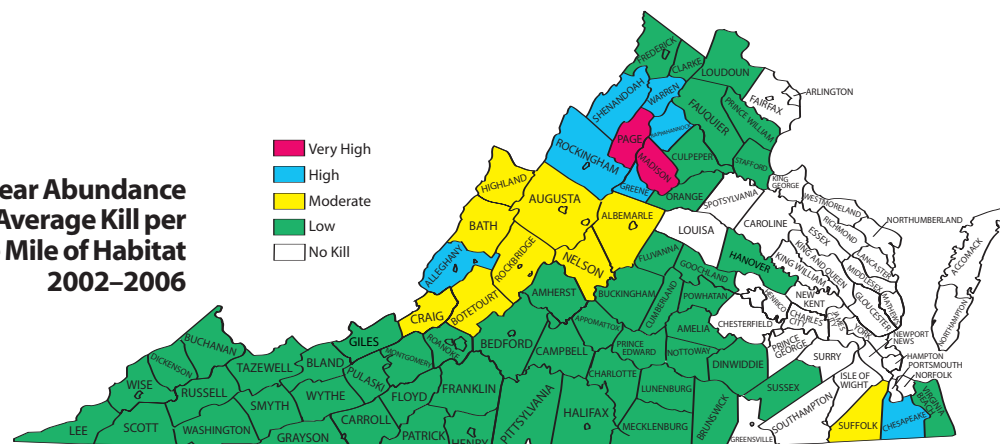
Relative Deer Abundance on Private Land Based on Total Antlered Buck Kill Per Square Mile of Habitat



Relative Turkey Abundance Based on Spring Kill per Square Mile of Habitat



Relative Bear Abundance Based on Average Kill per Square Mile of Habitat 2002–2006



Living With Black Bears in Virginia

by Jaime Sajecki, Bear Project Leader

Keeping Bears Wild

As Virginia's black bear population grows and expands, black bears are becoming an increasingly common sight across the Commonwealth. Additionally, human populations are also growing and spreading across most areas of Virginia. Black bears and human populations commonly coexist in many parts of North America. Black bears occur throughout most of the Commonwealth, and residential areas of Virginia are encroaching into forested lands and habitats commonly used by wildlife.

Many people enjoy the opportunity to see bears in the wild. However, when human-related foods become available to bears, problems may occur. Residents and visitors to Virginia can minimize negative interactions with bears by following some simple guidelines.

Residential Bear Problems

Bears are highly adaptable, intelligent animals and may learn to associate human dwellings with food. Bears are attracted to residential areas by the smell of food around homes.

- ◆ The most common food attractants are bird feeders, garbage, and pet food, but grills, livestock food, compost, and beehives can also attract bears.
- ◆ Residential bear problems may occur at any time of year, but are more common when natural food supplies are limited, usually in spring or in years when nut and berry productions are low.
- ◆ Most common bear problems have simple solutions. The typical problems involve turned-over garbage containers, trash littered across the yard, bears entering dog pens or coming onto porches to eat pet foods, or damaged birdfeeders. However, bears that learn to associate food with people can cause property damage in their search for food around houses.

If addressed quickly, problems are often resolved immediately. After a few failed attempts to find food, bears will usually leave the area and return to more normal wild food items. If problems are ignored, property damage can not only get worse, but bears may lose their fear of humans. Bears habituated to humans pose public safety concerns and often need to be destroyed.



©Bill Lea

You Can Prevent Nuisance Bear Problems

Black bears have a natural fear of humans, are shy, and usually avoid people. However, bears may be attracted to food sources in residential areas.

- ◆ Secure your garbage: Store garbage indoors, in a shed, in a garage, or in a bear-proof container.
- ◆ Put garbage out in the morning of pickup, not the night before.
- ◆ Take trash to the dump frequently.
- ◆ Pick up pet food: Feed pets only what they will eat in a single feeding or feed them indoors. Remove the food bowl soon after pets finish. Pick up uneaten food. Do not leave food out overnight.
- ◆ Remove the bird feeder: Bears consume seeds and nuts found in the wild, so bird feeders become a favored target for bears.
- ◆ Clean the outdoor grill often.
- ◆ Do not put meat scraps or any other strong-smelling food in the compost pile. Consider an enclosed compost bin.
- ◆ Pick up and remove ripe fruit from fruit trees and surrounding grounds.
- ◆ Install electric fencing to protect beehives, dumpsters, gardens, compost piles, or other potential food sources.
- ◆ Talk to your neighbors: Make sure your neighbors and community are aware of the ways to prevent nuisance bear problems.

Your Role

Prevention and cooperation! You can help manage the Commonwealth's black bear population by keeping your property clear of food attractants and **communicating with your neighbors** to resolve community bear concerns. Remember, **feeding bears is illegal**. It is illegal to deliberately feed bears on both public and private lands. Even the inadvertent feeding of problem bears is illegal (4 VAC 15-40-282).

Unlawful to Feed

It is unlawful for any person to place or distribute food, minerals, carrion, or similar substances to feed or attract bear. Nor, upon written notification by department personnel, shall any person continue to place or distribute any food, mineral, carrion or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the presence of bear in such numbers or circumstances to cause annoyance or inconvenience to any person, cause property damage, or endanger any person or wildlife.

Respect the bear's space! If a bear is on or near your property, do not escalate the situation by approaching, crowding around, or chasing the bear. This also applies to bears that have climbed up a tree. The best thing you can do is **leave it alone**. Because bears are naturally afraid of humans, a bear that feels cornered will be looking for an escape route. By keeping people and pets away from the bear, you give it the best chance to come down from the tree and leave your property on its own.

Report unresolved problems or damage. If you experience a bear problem after taking appropriate steps of prevention, you may seek additional assistance by contacting the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or local law enforcement.

The Department's Role

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has established nuisance bear guidelines that promote public safety, protect property, and conserve bear populations. Whenever possible, the Department's approach to managing problem bears encourages the coexistence of bears and humans. The specific response to nuisance bear problems is determined by public concerns, public safety, type and extent of damage, black bear biology, animal welfare, and available control methods.

When you call the Department, an employee will discuss the problem with you. In most cases, a telephone call will be all that is necessary to find successful solutions (usually the removal of attractants). At times, a Department employee may visit your property to discuss additional options.

For more information, please see our website:
<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear>

Contact Numbers:

Game Warden Dispatch	(804) 367-1258
Charles City-Region 1	(804) 829-6580
Forest - Region 2	(434) 525-7522
Marion - Region 3	(276) 783-4860
Verona - Region 4	(540) 248-9360
Fredericksburg - Region 5	(540) 899-4169

2006-07 Black Bear Harvest

Tracking population growth, Virginia's 2006-07 black bear harvest increased to the highest annual level ever recorded at 1,633 bears. In line with the 2006-07 harvest, Virginia's black bear harvest trend has been increasing at an average annual rate of 7.6% per year over the past decade. The 2006-07 harvest was 13% greater than last year's harvest of 1,439 and exceeded the previous 2003-04 record kill of 1,511 by 8%.

Bear harvests west and east of the Blue Ridge Mountains were 1,231 (up 10% from last season) and 402 (up 25%), respectively. Similar to 2005, the 8 counties surrounding Shenandoah National Park produced 41% (662 bears) of the total bear kill.

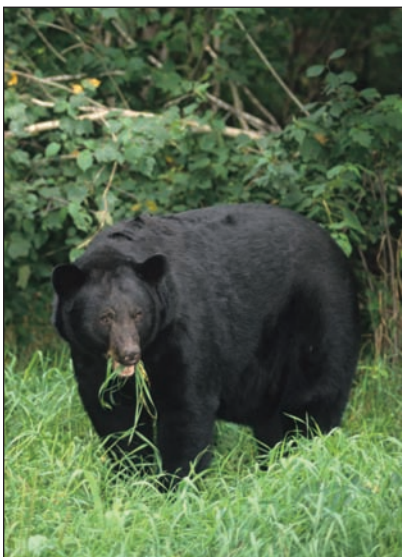
The archery harvest of 425 bears was a 37% increase from the previous year. At 26%, the archery portion of the total harvest was slightly greater than the 21% average observed since 1995. Reflecting their increased popularity, crossbows accounted for 38% of the entire archery harvest of bears.

The 4-day muzzleloading season accounted for 90 bears (6% of the total harvest). Although this was down 38% compared to 2005, the 2006 harvest was similar to the 2004 muzzleloading season.

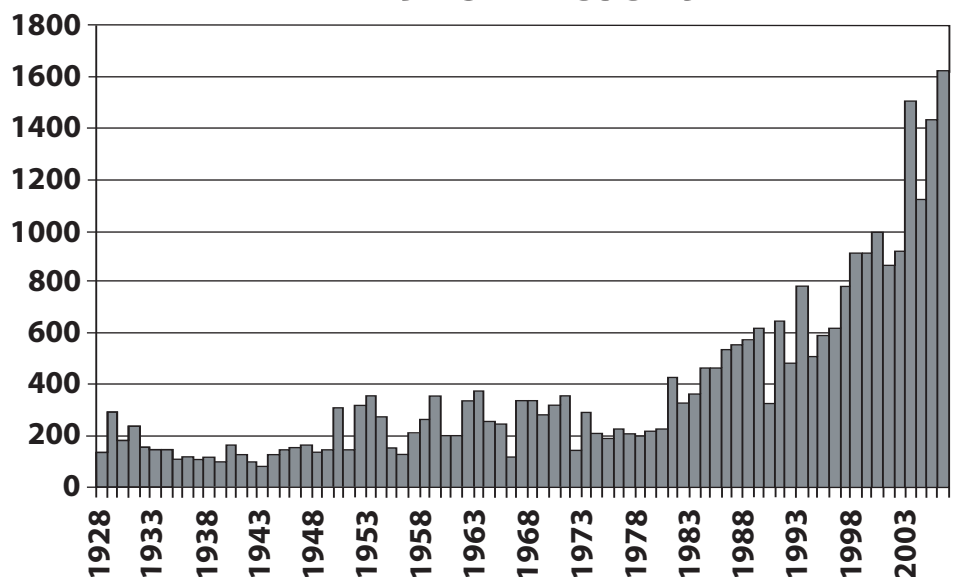
The 2006-07 regular firearms harvest of 1,118 bears was a 14% increase over the 2005-06 season. Dog hunters accounted for about 50% of the regular firearms harvest and 33% of the total bear kill.

Similar to the long-term average of 37%, the harvest was comprised of 35% females. Bear hunters in all seasons and hunter groups harvested a similar proportion of females. The percent female composition of the archery, muzzleloader, and regular firearms season was 32%, 41%, and 35%, respectively. Female bears represented 33% of the hound-hunter harvest.

Virginia Black Bear Harvest 1928 - Present



©Bill Lea



White-tailed Deer

by

Matt Knox and Nelson Lafon, Deer Project Leaders

2006-2007 Deer Harvest Summary

During the past deer season, 223,198 deer were reported killed by hunters in Virginia. This total included 106,595 antlered bucks, 19,652 button bucks, and 96,951 does (43.4%). This represents a 4% increase from the 215,082 deer reported killed last year. It is also 7% higher than the last 10 year average of 208,300.

Across the state, deer kill levels were stable in the Northern Mountains, down 5% in the Northern Piedmont, up 6% in the Southern Mountains, up 11% in the Southern Piedmont, and up 6% in Tidewater.

Archers, not including crossbow hunters, killed 17,100 deer. The bow kill was down about 2% from the 17,368 deer taken by archers last year. The bow kill comprised 8% of the total deer kill.

Crossbows, which were legal for all deer hunters for the first time in fall 2005, resulted in a deer kill of 7,051 deer or 3% of the total deer kill. The crossbow kill was up 28% from the 5,505 reported last year.

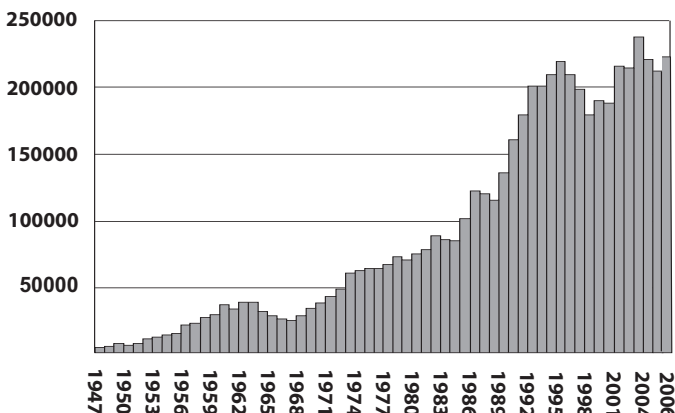
Muzzleloader hunters killed 52,216 deer. The muzzleloader kill was up 6% from the 49,445 deer taken by muzzleloader hunters last year. Muzzleloading comprised 23% of the total deer kill.

Nearly 124,000 deer (~56%) were checked using the Department's telephone checking system. This was up from 44% in 2004 and 51% in 2005.

White-tailed deer management in Virginia is based on the fact that herd density and health are best controlled by regulating antlerless deer kill levels, and female deer kill numbers have been at record levels for the past four consecutive years.

Deer management objectives and regulations are set on a county basis, and regulations are evaluated and amended every other year on odd years. Over the vast majority of the Commonwealth of Virginia, current deer management objectives call for the deer herd(s) to be stabilized at their early to mid 1990's deer kill levels and appear to be working fairly well over most of the state.

Virginia Deer Harvest, 1947 to 2006



Special Deer Management Programs:



©Leonard Lee Rue III

DMAP

Deer Management Assistance Program

DMAP is a site-specific deer management program that increases a landowner's or hunt club's management options by allowing a more liberal kill of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary goal is to allow landowners and hunt clubs to work together on a local level to manage their deer herd to meet their own goals. Secondary objectives are to increase the Department's biological database and to improve communication between deer hunters, landowners, and the Department. DMAP is open to every club or landowner in the state at no charge. In order to participate in DMAP, a new club or landowner must apply prior to September 15th. Applications are available from Department offices or any wildlife biologist. Eligible applicants will receive materials in the mail outlining the rules and requirements of the program, and all first year cooperators will be required to meet with their district wildlife biologist prior to their first season in the program. All program participants must collect biological deer harvest data for one hunting season prior to becoming eligible for DMAP tags. For more information regarding the DMAP program visit the Department's Web site.

DCAP

Damage Control Assistance Program

DCAP is a site-specific deer damage program that also increases a landowner's management options by allowing a more liberal kill of antlerless deer during the hunting season. The primary objective is the control of crop depredation by deer or other personal property damage. Secondary objectives are to maximize deer hunter participation in damage control efforts and to shift out of season kill permit deer kill into the open deer season. DCAP is available to landowners over most of the state at no charge. In order to participate in DCAP, a landowner must contact their local Game Warden when deer damage is occurring to their agricultural crops or personal property. DCAP permits are issued on a per property unit basis with a minimum issuance rate of 5 permits per property with a maximum of 25 per property. If eligible, a landowner will be mailed information on the rules of the program along with their DCAP tags. For more information on the DCAP program contact your local Game Warden, the region office serving your county (see listing on page 2) or visit the Department's Web site.

An Open Letter To Landowners and Deer Hunters in Bedford, Fairfax, Fauquier, Franklin, Loudoun, Patrick, Prince William, and Roanoke Counties

by Matt Knox and Nelson Lafon, Deer Project Leaders,
and John Rohm, District Wildlife Biologist (Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties)

HELP! If you hunt deer or own property in any of the above eight counties, please read this article. We need your help to reduce deer populations in these areas.

Over the past decade, the Department's deer harvest data indicates that deer populations have demonstrated significant increases in all these areas, except Fairfax. Fairfax's deer population has also increased during this time, but at a slower rate. Higher deer populations in these areas, combined with increasing human populations, have led to increased deer-human conflicts (e.g., deer-vehicle collisions, property damage, etc.). Increased deer populations in some counties (e.g., Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William) are especially troubling considering the Department's deer management objective over the past decade has been to reduce these deer populations. Despite having some of the most liberal deer hunting regulations in the nation, deer numbers continue to increase in these areas.

Has deer hunting failed in these areas? No, but neither has it succeeded in meeting the deer population objectives. If it were not for the current level of deer hunting in these areas, deer populations and deer-human conflicts in these areas would have increased even faster.

The bottom line is that doe harvest levels have not been sufficient to reduce deer populations in these areas. Something must be done to increase doe harvest levels in these counties on a sustained annual basis. Although hunting regulation changes are often necessary, opportunity currently exists to kill sufficient numbers of does in all these areas. It is the opinion of the Department's deer management staff that hunter and landowner education could be more important than regulations in solving deer overabundance in these areas.

Although decreasing numbers of deer hunters and properties open to hunting are potential barriers to controlling deer populations, the bigger problem is that deer hunters are not shooting the "right" deer. Most hunters, given the choice, prefer to shoot an antlered buck instead of a doe. But female deer control the deer population. No one has ever controlled a deer population by shooting antlered bucks. A simple example will suffice. If one buck is killed, a single deer has been removed from the deer population. If he had survived for a decade, he would have been only a single deer a decade later. One buck can breed with a number of does, so removing the majority of bucks has little or no impact on the number of fawns born. But what about shooting a doe? If one doe is killed, a single deer has been removed from the deer population. If she had survived for a decade, however, she and her offspring could have contributed over 200 deer to the deer population. The lesson here is simple. Shooting bucks will not control deer populations; shooting does will. Deer hunters in these counties must begin shooting more does if we are going to reduce deer populations.

Will shooting more does wipe out the deer? No, but hopefully it will result in lower deer population densities, meaning fewer deer-vehicle collisions and other conflicts. White-tailed deer would continue to be an integral part of the culture and ecosystem in these areas, just at lower levels. Besides, it is estimated that it will take 3-5 years of intensive doe harvests to reduce deer populations substantially in these areas.

So why should deer hunters make this change in the way they deer hunt? The simple answer is that it is what the public wants. Deer management in Virginia has changed. For much of the past century, the Department and its constituents worked diligently to restore deer populations across the Commonwealth. This effort has been one of the most remarkable wildlife success stories of the 20th century. In Virginia, deer populations have increased from an estimated population of 25,000 deer in the early 1930s to approximately a million deer today. Today, management emphasis is on controlling deer herd growth, and, in many areas, reducing deer herds. Currently, the only economically feasible way to achieve these goals is through regulated deer hunting.

The authority to manage deer in Virginia is vested with the Department through the General Assembly and the Governor. One of the missions of the Department is to manage Virginia's wildlife to maintain optimum populations to serve the needs of the Commonwealth. Today, all citizens and interest groups must be considered in deer management, not just any one special interest group. With deer hunters in Virginia comprising less than 4% of the state's total population, it is important to also address the needs of the non-hunting majority. It is clear that the majority of citizens in counties with frequent human-deer conflicts would like to see the deer population reduced.

If the Department is not able to meet the expectations of the general public using hunting, then other deer herd reduction methods (e.g., out of season kill permits, sharpshooting) can be expected to increase. In a worst-case scenario, white-tailed deer could be declared a nuisance species and shot at any time.

In the long run, reducing the deer population will benefit the deer herd and deer hunters themselves. Deer quantity and deer quality share an inverse relationship. More deer results in smaller, less healthy deer; less deer result in bigger, healthier deer and healthier habitat.

Strategies For Deer Hunters:

- ◆ First of all, be safe.
- ◆ Shoot a big doe instead of a small buck. In fact, shoot two and tell your deer hunting friends to do the same.
- ◆ Support Virginia's Hunters For The Hungry Program (donate deer and money).

Strategies For Landowners:

- ◆ If conceivable, permit deer hunting that promotes harvest of does.
- ◆ Only allow deer hunters who agree to assist in reducing the deer herd.
- ◆ Favor hunters who hunt during all seasons (i.e., archery, muzzle-loading, and modern firearms).
- ◆ Adopt an "earn a buck" program and require that at least two does be killed for every antlered buck killed.

For more information on the Department's deer management program(s), please visit the Department's Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Introduction

CWD is a progressive brain and nervous system disease found in deer and elk. The disease ultimately results in the death of the infected animal. Species naturally infected include elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer and moose. CWD has not been found in Virginia; however, the closest area where CWD has been detected is Hampshire County, West Virginia. There is strong evidence to suggest that abnormally shaped infectious proteins called prions are responsible for the disease. While there is currently no evidence that CWD has been transmitted to humans, the disease is a serious threat to Virginia's deer population.

CWD Surveillance in Virginia

Since 2002, the Department has tested almost 3,000 deer and elk for CWD. This includes hunter-harvested deer from every county in Virginia, road-killed deer, deer exhibiting clinical signs consistent with CWD (see below), as well as captive deer and elk that have died of natural causes. CWD has not been detected in all the valid samples that have been tested. This sample size is large enough to give the Department a very high confidence that, if CWD is present in Virginia, then it is at very low levels.

Targeted Surveillance

One of the Department's main strategies for detecting CWD is to test deer that are showing symptoms of the disease. In the early stages of infections, animals do not show any symptoms, and signs generally do not develop until the deer is approximately 18 months



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of age. The incubation period can range from 12-18 months up to 3-5 years. In the later stages of infection animals begin to display abnormal behavior such as staggering or standing with a poor posture. Animals may carry the head and ears lowered. In the later stages of the disease infected animals become emaciated and appear in poor body condition (see picture).

If you see a deer with these symptoms do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill, or remove the animal. You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) at 1-804-367-1258 or the nearest department office. Arrangements will be made to investigate the report if it is determined to be warranted. If you kill a severely emaciated deer or a deer that is obviously sick, please also contact the VDGIF.

CWD Surveillance in 2007

VDGIF will continue with active surveillance for CWD in 2007. The Department will be asking for the assistance of hunters in its CWD surveillance efforts, by requesting that hunters voluntarily submit deer heads for sampling for CWD. The specific details will be published at a later date. Hunter participation in CWD surveillance efforts is vital. By submitting deer heads for testing, hunters will enable the Department to more quickly and more effectively monitor for the presence of CWD. Hunters will be able to check the CWD test results for their submitted deer heads on the Department's Web site at <http://www3.dgif.virginia.gov/web/cwdresults/>.

Carcass Importation Ban

The primary objective in the management of CWD is to prevent its spread into new areas. One possible mode of disease transmission is by the importation of infected carcasses. In an effort to minimize the risk for disease spread, Virginia along with a number of other states, have adopted regulations that prohibit the importation of whole carcasses and certain carcass parts of deer and elk harvested from states that have CWD.

Virginia's carcass transportation regulation prohibits the importation or possession of whole deer carcasses or specified parts of carcasses originating from a state or Canadian province in which CWD has been found in free-ranging or captive deer. This includes any member of the deer family *Cervidae* (including but not limited to white-tailed deer, black-tailed deer, mule deer, fallow, axis, and sika deer, elk, moose, and caribou).

States and provinces with CWD include Alberta, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Virginia's regulation does provide for the importation and possession of the following carcass parts:

- Boned out meat that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately).
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Hides and capes with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.

- Upper canine teeth, also known as “buglers,” “whistlers,” or “ivories.”
- Finished taxidermy products.

A legible label shall be affixed to packages or containers holding the allowed carcass parts with the following information: the species of animal, the state or province from where the animal originated, and the name and address of the person who killed or owned the animal. Any person who imports into Virginia any deer carcass or parts described above and is notified that the animal has tested positive for CWD must report the test results to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries within 72 hours of receiving the notification. In order to facilitate the proper disposal of any infected material, the Department may take into possession any imported carcass or carcass part of an animal if the animal has tested positive for CWD.

Since these regulations are continually evolving, it is recommended that, before hunting, you check the CWD regulations in your home state, the state in which you will be hunting, and states in which you will travel through en route home from your hunting area. A summary of state-by-state carcass transportation regulations is provided on the CWD Alliance Web site (www.cwd-info.org) under the policy/regulation/legislative section.

Deer Feeding Prohibition

In addition to preventing the introduction of the disease into new areas, it is also important to prohibit or limit activities that may increase the spread of the disease once it has been introduced into an area. Activities that concentrate deer such as feeding or rehabilitation of deer may increase the rate of transmission of the disease. Please note that the Department has passed a regulation, effective July 1, 2006, making it unlawful for any person to distribute food, minerals, carrion or similar substances to feed or attract deer from September 1 through the first Saturday in January, both dates inclusive. This prohibition does not include the planting of wildlife food plots.

Further Information

Further information about CWD, the Department’s surveillance efforts, the carcass importation ban, and other regulations can be found on the Department’s Web site at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/cwd.asp>.

ATTENTION:
Chronic Wasting Disease Suspects

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a progressive brain and nervous system disease found in deer and elk that ultimately results in death.

What it is:
 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a progressive neurological disease found in deer and elk, ultimately resulting in death. Species known to be susceptible include elk, moose, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and black-tailed deer.

What to look for:
 Symptoms include abnormal behavior such as staggering, poor posture, lowered head and ears, drooling, and emaciation (poor body condition).

What to do:
 Do not attempt to contact, disturb, kill or remove the animal. You should accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at 804-367-1258 or one of the listed offices nearest you. Arrangements will be made to investigate the report.

Blacksburg: 540-961-8304
 Farmville: 434-392-9645
 Fredericksburg: 540-899-4169
 Lynchburg: 434-525-7522
 Marion: 276-783-4860
 Verona: 540-248-9360
 Williamsburg: 804-843-5962

Wild Turkey

by Gary W. Norman, Wild Turkey Project Leader

Gobbler Project Update

Since 2004 the Department has been conducting a study of wild turkey gobblers in the Tidewater and Southwest Mountain Regions of the state. The main goal of the project is to determine survival and harvest rates of gobblers in the different regions which have different fall season formats. Additionally, we hope to learn more about gobbler home ranges, behavior, and gobbling. Approximately 35 gobblers have been caught each year at each site and fitted with radio transmitters and reward leg bands. Department staff monitor the birds' movements and survival twice each week using radio telemetry. The transmitters are equipped with a mercury switch that changes the pulse rate of the transmitter when it becomes motionless for 8 hours. In effect this lets us know if the bird hasn't moved for 8 hours and is likely dead. After detecting the "mortality mode," researchers locate the carcass and attempt to determine the cause of death. Thus far, natural mortality rates of radio marked gobblers has been relatively low, with legal harvest generally being the leading cause of mortality. These data are also being combined with data from 2 study sites in West Virginia. We are working cooperatively with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to compare survival and harvest rates under 0, 4, and 6 weeks of fall hunting seasons in the two states.

In addition to the survival estimates, we are monitoring the birds movements and have conducted an experiment on some of the birds to see what effect flushing the birds off a roost would have on their movement or home range. This experiment is intended to replicate what many spring hunters have likely experienced when they get too close to a gobbling bird at daylight and flush it off the roost. Disheartened hunters that have done this undoubtedly question what effects this will have on the bird and wonder (1) will the gobbler leave the area, and (2) will scaring him cause him to shut up and not gobble? We have begun to address this scenario by intentionally flushing some birds off their roost at daylight and monitoring their movements the next day to their next roost site. We also monitor the movements of some birds that are not flushed so they will serve as controls. What we have found has been very interesting and surprising. We've found that birds that are not flushed typically moved about 992 yards between roost sites. Those birds that were flushed moved 1,315 yards between roost sites. So the flushing may have had some slight impact on the birds' movements, but hunters should take heart that their blunder is probably not going to be long lasting. Another interesting aspect we discovered when conducting this research is the surprising magnitude of the movements in general. Some birds moved as far as 4,404 yards between roosts! Clearly there is a lot of shuffling going on at this time and the age of the gobbler may have some impact on the extent of the movements. Additionally, the study we conducted was immediately prior to the opening of the spring gobbler season. The birds may settle down as the season progresses.

We've also been working with a telemetry company to develop a device that will allow us to monitor the date and time that birds gobble. The technology has been challenging, but it appears we've been successful developing this gobbling archive tag. The device fits around the bird's neck and monitors both movement and sounds the gobbler makes. If the criteria for movement (head) and sound (gob-

ble) are met, then the unit records the date and time of the event. We hope to be able to attach 25 of these units this spring and learn more about the timing of gobbling. We intend to relate gobbling to weather and other variables.

The Department would like to thank the Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation for sponsoring part of the Gobbler Research Project. Funds from the Virginia Super Fund pay the salary of one of the technicians working on the project. The majority of the project funds comes from Virginia's Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Programs.

New Brood Reporting System

The Department is interested in monitoring wild turkey reproduction and would like to encourage everyone to report any broods they see during the summer months. The brood reporting system is new, and broods can be reported on the Department's Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov. You will be prompted to report the county, date, and number of hens seen with and without young as well as adult gobblers. Monitoring reproduction is an important aspect of evaluating harvests and population trends. We encourage everyone to participate. Survey results are updated when reports are made so we can tell the number of broods seen up to the minute.

Spring Gobbler Youth Hunt

The 2006 special youth season hunt for spring gobblers resulted in a harvest of 341 toms. The 2006 season was the third year for the special hunt. The harvest during the 2006 season was higher than the first two seasons where 191 and 196 birds were taken, respectively. The season offers a great opportunity for adults to mentor a young hunter and share their experience and knowledge on gobbler hunting and do a little scouting too.

Spring Gobbler Season Survey

The Department annually conducted a survey of avid spring gobbler hunters to monitor gobbling, hunter success, and hunter attitudes. Last year about 500 hunters participated in the survey, which entails reporting the county hunted, hours hunted and the number of birds heard gobbling and harvested. Additionally, hunters are asked to report their observations of grouse, bear, and coyotes seen while hunting. A summary report is provided to all cooperators; a copy of the questionnaire and 2006 report is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/turkey/sgs2005.pdf>. To participate in the survey please contact Gary Norman at Gary.Norman@dgif.virginia.gov or call 540-248-9389.

Bowhunter Survey

Population levels of many wildlife species are difficult to monitor without consistent reliable data, like harvest data from check stations. To monitor a host of wildlife species, the Department has enlisted the help of avid bowhunters to complete an annual survey of the different wildlife species they see while bow hunting. Most of the species in the survey lack adequate population data, like those that require mandatory checking. In addition to important big game species like deer, bear, and wild turkey, the bowhunters report observations of a variety of critters including grouse, squirrels, raccoons, and foxes, as examples. To participate in the survey please contact Gary Norman at Gary.Norman@dgif.virginia.gov or call 540-248-9389.

Wild Turkey Feather Collections

The Department requires hunters to check wild turkeys that are harvested in the fall at Game Check Stations. Wing and breast feathers are collected during the checking process. These feathers are used to determine the age and sex of the harvested bird. The ratio of juveniles to adult female in the harvest is used as an index to reproductive success. A ratio of 3 or more juveniles per adult female would indicate a very successful reproductive season, whereas much lower ratios would suggest poor recruitment.

Unfortunately, many times the wrong feathers are collected and the sample is useless. To help check stations and hunters identify the correct feathers we have provided photos and directions below.



Pull the FIRST large wing feather. This feather should be approximately 9-12 inches in length.



The first wing feather on an adult bird is rounded with white barring to the tip of the feather. Juvenile wing feathers are pointed and the tip of the feather does not have white barring.



photos by Lee Walker



Pull a breast feather from the CENTER of the breast. The tips of breast feathers of male birds are black whereas the tips of females are brown.



Male

Female

Deer, Bear, Turkey Harvest Information

County/City	Deer		Bear		Turkey			
	06/07	5 Year Avg.	06/07	5 Year Avg.	Fall 06/07	5 Year Avg.	Spring 06	5 Year Avg.
Accomack	2720	2678	0	0	0	0	127	102
Albemarle	3910	4730	63	67	37	59	174	179
Alleghany	1772	2140	113	78	86	110	190	202
Amelia	3129	2482	0	0.2	132	144	244	214
Amherst	2658	2937	21	20	61	71	245	255
Appomattox	1488	1273	3	2	59	64	168	145
Augusta	3889	4186	124	86	84	109	256	223
Bath	2696	3334	75	59	44	90	215	207
Bedford	8215	7519	14	16	157	186	627	596
Bland	2108	2430	30	25	64	98	185	189
Botetourt	3469	3751	62	52	138	178	273	313
Brunswick	2894	2496	1	0.4	43	71	190	145
Buchanan	442	385	3	2	23	43	236	217
Buckingham	2483	2415	7	7	64	109	168	177
Campbell	2369	1937	0	1	74	85	245	254
Caroline	3084	3457	0	0	55	86	154	167
Carroll	1708	1566	6	6	60	91	241	252
Charles City	2156	1819	0	0	20	21	134	131
Charlotte	2168	1740	0	1	60	81	274	242
Chesapeake	664	732	2	6	0	0	4	3
Chesterfield	1408	1455	0	0	35	44	128	116
Clarke	1922	1953	2	2	8	10	69	45
Craig	2191	2465	66	41	69	100	213	191
Culpeper	2929	2821	13	9	25	32	88	86
Cumberland	2347	1976	2	1	84	100	193	154
Dickenson	899	807	6	1	40	69	147	165
Dinwiddie	2147	1779	2	0.4	90	105	224	202
Essex	2413	2182	0	0	24	36	102	102
Fairfax	1326	1025	0	0	2	3	20	8
Fauquier	6464	6957	15	9	38	39	159	134
Floyd	2308	2504	9	4	79	104	268	270
Fluvanna	1655	1684	1	1	50	63	112	121
Franklin	5201	5192	7	4	105	173	539	554
Frederick	3650	4021	5	4	39	60	224	163
Giles	2822	3242	28	25	85	118	235	235
Gloucester	1486	1222	0	0	11	17	158	166
Goochland	2062	2157	0	0.2	83	99	138	126
Grayson	3401	3814	16	9	44	102	312	316
Greene	586	574	30	30	3	4	23	17
Greensville	1712	1569	0	0	41	49	154	124
Halifax	3258	2909	1	0.4	129	132	336	319
Hanover	2179	2041	0	0.2	35	51	136	141
Henrico	810	881	0	0	16	18	64	47
Henry	1738	1910	0	0.4	28	36	224	189
Highland	2358	2932	52	49	29	62	108	102
Isle of Wight	2303	2011	0	0	13	16	248	205
James City	909	965	0	0	2	7	71	70
King & Queen	2443	2151	0	0	67	67	145	149
King George	1473	1325	0	0	3	12	67	76

County/City	Deer		Bear		Turkey			
	06/07	5 Year Avg.	06/07	5 Year Avg.	Fall 06/07	5 Year Avg.	Spring 06	5 Year Avg.
King William	2364	2236	0	0	53	76	119	127
Lancaster	1315	1043	0	0	13	14	146	145
Lee	1408	1549	1	0.2	30	47	223	223
Loudoun	6627	7067	3	1	24	28	134	121
Louisa	1929	2024	0	0	46	77	138	153
Lunenburg	1615	1369	3	3	33	39	191	143
Madison	1966	1952	89	77	14	18	71	69
Mathews	376	345	0	0	6	6	51	68
Mecklenburg	2092	1810	2	1	37	38	224	221
Middlesex	755	668	0	0	9	9	91	98
Montgomery	2312	2500	10	7	68	96	191	200
Nelson	2282	2454	49	47	34	53	154	177
New Kent	1862	1735	0	0	12	23	118	119
Newport News	106	185	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton	1421	1413	0	0	0	0	71	62
Northumberland	1348	1113	0	0	18	32	201	223
Nottoway	1929	1482	0	0.2	53	47	111	104
Orange	2489	2457	1	1	26	33	64	69
Page	873	1113	90	83	14	24	105	72
Patrick	2290	2528	9	5	45	80	298	325
Pittsylvania	4590	4443	3	2	117	166	528	540
Powhatan	1997	1857	0	1	72	95	156	138
Prince Edward	1986	1738	0	0.4	47	74	157	156
Prince George	1612	1491	0	0	10	17	204	169
Prince William	1679	1727	0	0.2	10	13	37	45
Pulaski	1811	1914	2	4	49	84	165	158
Rappahannock	1970	1907	47	48	11	20	55	51
Richmond	1760	1411	0	0	13	17	174	202
Roanoke	1386	1463	25	16	35	49	115	121
Rockbridge	2731	3269	69	53	64	120	325	304
Rockingham	3884	4731	162	154	40	67	176	159
Russell	1388	1521	19	8	48	74	161	150
Scott	3950	3847	6	3	138	176	338	370
Shenandoah	4389	5012	91	67	102	120	253	183
Smyth	1982	2034	23	21	44	59	135	142
Southampton	6366	5204	0	0	25	27	426	324
Spotsylvania	1462	1432	0	0	19	29	61	50
Stafford	1190	1243	0	0.2	11	25	64	56
Suffolk	2017	1776	13	13	0	0	161	123
Surry	2827	2373	1	0	14	26	244	213
Sussex	3173	2820	1	0.2	35	42	301	235
Tazewell	2095	2476	37	23	42	62	142	166
Virginia Beach	490	477	0	1	0	0	0	0
Warren	1527	1653	57	42	15	19	58	51
Washington	1637	1673	22	14	38	58	143	127
Westmoreland	1620	1348	0	0	8	16	193	227
Wise	561	529	4	4	11	28	148	154
Wythe	2530	2691	13	9	43	85	276	263
York	807	699	0	0	8	15	41	40
Total	223198	222331	1633	1327.8	4143	5773	17195	16444

Small Game

by Patrick Cook
Small Game Project Leader

Rabbits in Virginia

Virginia has three rabbit species, but by far the one most familiar to Virginians is the eastern cottontail. It is found in every county and abundant in many. Eastern cottontails may be encountered in a variety of habitats, but are most abundant in areas containing a mixture of weeds, dense native grasses, and short brush. During the spring and summer, they feed mainly on herbaceous plants such as clovers, grasses, and broadleaf weeds. In the winter, their diet shifts to include more buds, twigs, and bark. Cottontails breed during February–September and are extremely prolific. Under ideal conditions, two could theoretically multiply into 25 in less than a year. This breeding strategy is needed to compensate for very high annual mortality. In most years, 80% or more of adult cottontails are killed. Important predators include bobcats, foxes, hawks, and owls. Landowners wishing to increase the number of cottontails on their property must increase the quantity and quality of cottontail habitat.



Eastern cottontail; ©Lynda Richardson



Appalachian rabbit; ©Jeffrey Pippen



Marsh rabbit; ©Lynda Richardson

A primary objective is to provide plenty of escape cover (e.g. blackberry thickets) in close proximity to feeding areas. For more information on how to manage your property for this species, contact your local DGIF office.

There is another cottontail in Virginia, the Appalachian cottontail. This species inhabits the mountainous areas of the state. It is very similar in appearance to the eastern cottontail. The most distinguishing characteristic is the color of a spot between the ears. Appalachian cottontails have a dark spot and eastern cottontails have a white spot. Much less is known about the biology of this cottontail species, but it is assumed to be fairly similar to eastern cottontails. However, they do seem to require habitat that is more heavily dominated by dense woody vegetation such as mountain laurel and blueberry. They may be displaced by eastern cottontails where permanent clearing takes place for pastures, housing development, etc.

In southeastern Virginia, we have yet another rabbit species, the marsh rabbit. The marsh rabbit is easily distinguished from the other rabbit species. As its name implies, it is associated with wetland habitats and is most abundant in the Dismal Swamp. The marsh rabbit is an excellent swimmer and often dives into water to escape from predators. Management for this species includes protecting its habitat and establishing new habitat through wetland restoration.

All three of these species are legally hunted in Virginia. The eastern cottontail is the most commonly pursued because of its widespread distribution and the inaccessibility of the habitats occupied by the other two species. Rabbit hunting is quite popular in Virginia. According to the Department's latest hunter survey, 53,000 hunters (23% of total licensed hunters) harvested 295,000 rabbits during the 2004-05 season. Rabbit hunters typically use beagles to jump and run rabbits. If you've never been on a rabbit hunt, you should try it. It is an exciting way to spend a day afield.

Furbearers

by Mike Fies

Furbearer Project Leader

Introduction

There are currently 13 furbearer species with established populations in Virginia. Nine of these species are legally defined as furbearers and 4 species are defined as both furbearers and game animals. The 9 furbearer species include beaver, mink, muskrat, river otter, opossum, striped skunk, spotted skunk, long-tailed weasel, and least weasel. The 4 species defined as both furbearers and game animals (which are hunted) include bobcat, gray fox, red fox, and raccoon. Two non-native fur-bearing animals are legally classified as nuisance species (coyote and nutria) and have a continuous open season. Populations of most furbearer species are flourishing and are annually harvested by more than 1,100 trappers and 40,000 hunters.

Current Pelt Harvest

The number of pelts purchased or brokered by licensed fur dealers serves as a useful index of furbearer population levels. In Virginia, the number of pelts purchased or brokered by these dealers decreased from 31,391 in 2004-2005 to 29,317 in 2005-2006 (-6.6%). Fur dealer pelt transactions decreased for raccoon, muskrat, gray fox, and coyotes. Total pelt transactions increased for all other species. The total number of bobcat and otter pelt transactions exceeded the 41-year average reported from 1964-2005 by 110% and 72%, respectively. The total number of coyote pelt transactions exceeded the 13-year average by 185%, as reported by fur dealers from 1993-2005.

Fur pelts purchased or brokered by Virginia fur dealers were valued at approximately \$430,307 during the 2005-2006 season. The relative value of fur purchased during 2005-2006 represents a 20.1% increase in value over the previous reporting year (\$358,413), but is only 3.8% of the record value (\$11,250,675) of fur pelts purchased during the 1980-1981 season (2005 U.S. dollar equivalent). The average price paid per pelt was \$14.68, up 28.5% from the previous year. Pelt prices increased for all species except nutria and river otter.

In general, trapping license sales are highly dependent on fur prices. However, trapping license sales decreased 13.5% from 1,329 during 2004-2005 to 1,149 licenses sold during 2005-2006. Total trapping license sales were 78.3% less than the record high of 5,293 trapping licenses sold during 1979-1980 and 62.1% greater than the record low 709 licenses sold during 1993-1994.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry and agricultural practices have been around for many years. However, few people realize that BMPs have also been developed for trapping many furbearer species. Since 1996, wildlife biologists and trappers have worked together to identify traps and trapping techniques that improve efficiency and selectivity, as well as the welfare of trapped animals. More than 50 types of traps were evaluated by trapper/technician teams in 32 states. Full body necropsies were performed by wildlife veterinarians to assess different types of trap injuries. Results from these research projects were used to develop

species-specific reference guides that provide recommendations for the continued improvement of traps and trapping systems. So far, BMP manuals have been completed for the bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, opossum, and raccoon. Draft BMP documents are also nearing completion for several other species. Using the most efficient and humane traps available for each species should increase acceptance of furbearer management programs by the nontrapping public. BMP recommendations will be voluntary and incorporated into trapper education programs throughout the United States. Modern, regulated trapping provides many benefits to society. Acceptance of BMPs will help insure that trapping remains a viable tool in wildlife management programs in the future. A CD with the completed BMP documents is available free-of-charge from the Department. For additional information about BMPs, please visit the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies website at http://www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer_bmp.html.

2005-2006 Virginia Furdealer Transactions and Average Pelt Value.

Species	# Pelts Sold or Brokered	Average Pelt Price
Beaver	4,950	\$ 18.57
Bobcat	481	41.04
Coyote	342	16.09
Fox, Gray	2,379	19.13
Fox, Red	2,540	16.44
Mink	559	16.21
Muskrat	8,451	4.53
Nutria	155	2.95
Opossum	1,219	1.65
Otter	1,376	100.48
Raccoon	6,670	5.57
Skunk	195	3.33

Otter Harvest West of the Blue Ridge, 2006-2007 Season Results

For the first time since 1978, limited otter trapping opportunities were available in certain counties west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (WBR). River otter populations in this region have been steadily increasing and were believed to be sufficient to support a trapping season in the New River, Roanoke River, and James River watersheds. This new season allowed trappers to harvest a limited number of otters while providing the Department with biological information to more accurately assess their population status. Trappers were limited to two otters per season and required to submit the entire skinned carcass of each otter for biological evaluation.

The 2006-2007 WBR otter season was a success, thanks to excellent cooperation by trappers. A total of 66 otters were legally trapped and their carcasses submitted to Department staff for analyses. The sex of trapped animals was 37 males and 29 females. Otters were harvested in 14 of the 15 counties that were open to trapping (all except Pulaski). The county otter harvest (in parentheses) was distributed as follows: Alleghany (17), Augusta (4), Bath (2), Bland (2), Botetourt (6), Carroll (4), Craig (2), Floyd (1), Giles (1), Grayson (8), Montgomery (4), Roanoke (1), Rockbridge (4), and Wythe (10). This new WBR season continues during 2007-2008. The counties open to otter trapping are illustrated on page 45.

2007 - 2008 Quota Hunts

General Information/Application

The Department's Quota Hunts requires hunters to apply pre-season and be selected by random drawing to hunt waterfowl and/or big and small game. A non-refundable application fee of \$7.50 will be applied to each hunt except Radford Deer hunt. The application fee to apply for the Radford Hunt will be \$10.00. A hunter may apply by mail, telephone or through the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov. When applying by mail, copy and fill-out the application on page 68 or 69, or download the application from the Agency Web site. Mail application to: Virginia Quota Hunts, c/o CyberData, Inc., Hicksville, New York 11802. Remit check(s) payable to: CyberData, Inc. When applying by telephone, please have your credit card number available, call between the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 1-877-VAHUNTS (1-877-824-8687).

NOTE: Hunters will be notified by United States mail or email if selected or not selected for each hunt applied.

Waterfowl

Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Series #101

Hunt waterfowl at Hog Island WMA in Surry County. Hunt includes half day hunting each Saturday during the last segments of the general duck season. Hunting parties are provided a blind, boat and decoys for the hunt. Nine (9) hunters are randomly selected for each day of hunting, and selected hunters are allowed two guests. Limited access to the area requires hunters be transported by Department personnel to their blind location. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Note: Hunters must arrive before 5:00 a.m. The stand-by drawing will be conducted at 4:45 a.m. to assign order for replacing "no show" slots.

Hunt dates: TBA (to be announced)

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series #102

Hunt waterfowl on managed impoundments at Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. Hunt includes half day hunting each Wednesday during the last segments of the general duck season. Hunting parties are provided a blind, boat and decoys for the half day. Four hunters will be randomly selected for each day of hunting and selected hunters are allowed two guests. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts Series #103

Hunt waterfowl on the Dutch Gap Conservation Area in Chesterfield County. Hunt days are during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed

two guests. Three hunters will be randomly selected for each set of hunt dates. Hunting is from floating blinds at designated blind stakes. No boats or decoys are provided with this hunt.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Tundra Swan Permit Series #104

Tundra Swan hunting is by permit only. The Agency will randomly issue the permits through a lottery drawing in October 2007. Each permit holder will be authorized to take one Tundra Swan during the season. The hunt area is limited to east of U.S. Route I-95 and south of Chopawamsic Creek on the Prince William / Stafford County line.

TUNDRA SWAN season: TBA.

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts Series # 105

Hunt waterfowl on Lake Orange, Orange County. Hunt days are every Saturday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. One hunter will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunting will only be allowed on a designated section(s) of Lake Orange. Floating blinds, anchored within 50 feet of shore or portable blinds will be allowed along the designated shoreline.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts Series # 106

Hunt waterfowl on designated impoundments at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Hunt days are every Wednesday during the last two segments of the waterfowl season. Two hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts begin 1/2 hour before sunrise and end at 3:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Selected hunters may bring two guests. Hunters must provide decoys. Dogs are allowed. There are no boat landings or direct vehicular access provided. Small boats or canoes may be used but must be transported on foot.

Hunt Dates: TBA

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts Series #107

Hunt waterfowl for half days on the waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach. There are 51 floating blind stakes available for hunting. Drawing order will be randomly selected for each hunt day prior to the hunting season. Each hunt day, hunters present will select their blind in the order assigned by the preseason drawing. Drawings start promptly at 5:00 a.m. Each hunter is allowed THREE guests. Hunters who are late or without a draw number can participate in a standby drawing starting promptly at 5:15 a.m. Limited water access to the area requires that all hunting parties have a boat/ float blind and float blind license. All hunters are required to stop hunting at 1:00 p.m. and have all decoys retrieved

and be away from the blind stakes by 2:00 p.m. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time!

Hunt days: Opening days, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and state holidays.

Hunt dates: TBA

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Plum Tree National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts

Series # 108

Hunt waterfowl for full days on the Cow Island Unit of Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Poquoson. Hunting is available from 6 licensed blind locations. Hunters select preferred dates for two-day hunt packages during the last two segments of the regular duck season. Each hunter selected is allowed 2 guests. Hunters must provide their own boat access to the refuge, decoys, and hunting gear. Dogs are permitted and encouraged. The nearest boat launch access to the hunting area is from the Rens Road Public Boat Ramp in Poquoson.

More information: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/plumtreeisland/hunting.html> or (804) 829-9020.

Hunt Days: Opening Days, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Holidays

Hunt dates: TBA

Application due: October 5, 2007

Deer

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 201

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates archery: October (no Sunday hunting) 6 & 8-10, 11-13, 15-17, 2007

Applications due: August 31, 2007

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series# 202

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: October 18-20, 22-24, 25-27, 2007

Applications due: August 31, 2007

Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 203

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County during the dates listed below. A total of seven hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates firearm: October 29-31, November 1-3, 2007

Applications due: August 31, 2007

Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts

Series # 204

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA in Northampton County during the dates listed below. The 365-acre GATR Tract is the mainland portion of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. This tract is accessible by vehicle. A total of two hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: November 3-7 (no Sunday hunting), November 8-10, November 12-14, November 15-16 (two days only).

Applications due: August 31, 2007

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park Deer and Hog Hunt

Series # 205

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer and feral hogs on the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park in the City of Virginia Beach for the dates listed below. A total of 116 hunters are selected per hunt days. A daily stand-by drawing will be available on-site to fill "no show" slots. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10.00 to the Back Bay NWR / False Cape SP payable on the day of the hunt. For complete hunt information and zone maps, go to the following Web sites before registering for this hunt: <http://www.fws.gov/back-bay/hunting.htm> or <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/hunting.shtml>

Hunt dates: October 6, 8 - 10 and 25 - 27, 2007 Check Websites for additional dates when set.

Application due: August 31, 2007

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 206

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Caroline, Essex, King George, Richmond and Westmoreland counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson, Thomas (Essex County); Mothershead (Westmoreland County); Toby's Point (King George County); Tayloe, Laurel Grove, Wright (Richmond County); Port Royal (Caroline County). Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$50/season to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted (on a walk-in basis only) during regular business hours, October 1 - November 1, 2007.

More information: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/rappahannock/hunting.html> or (804) 333-1470.

Hunt dates archery: October 6 - November 2, 2007 (except Sundays)

Application due: August 31, 2007

**Only load your firearm
when you are ready
to hunt.**

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 207

Muzzleloader hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson (Essex County); Toby's Point (King George County); Laurel Grove, Tayloe, Wilna, Wright (Richmond County). Applicants may apply for multiple hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted (on a walk-in basis only) during regular business hours, October 22 - November 9, 2007.

More information: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/rappahannock/hunting.html> or (804) 333-1470.

Hunt dates muzzleloader: November 3, 9, 10, 2007

Application due: August 31, 2007

Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 208

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Essex, King George and Richmond counties for the dates listed below. Hunt tracts include: Hutchinson (Essex County); Toby's Point (King George County); Laurel Grove, Tayloe, Wilna, Wright (Richmond County). Applicants may apply for multiple hunt dates. Each successful hunter will be allowed one guest. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee. Applications for unfilled hunt slots will be accepted (on a walk-in basis only) during regular business hours, October 22 - November 30, 2007.

More information: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/rappahannock/hunting.html> or (804) 333-1470.

Hunt dates firearms: November 17, 23, 24, 29, 30; December 1, 2007

Application due: August 31, 2007

Presquile National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 209

Firearms hunting for white-tailed deer on the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in Chesterfield County for the dates listed below. Presquile is an island in the James River near Hopewell, Virginia. Hunters must provide their own boat access to the island and hunting gear. Boat launch access to the refuge is from Deep Bottom public boat ramp (Henrico County) or Hopewell Marina (launch fee collected on site), City of Hopewell. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$10/day per hunter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

More information: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/presquile/hunting.html> or (804) 829-9020.

Hunt dates firearms: November 19, 24, 26, 2007

Application due: August 31, 2007

James River National Wildlife Refuge

Series # 210

Archery hunting for white-tailed deer on the James River National Wildlife Refuge in Prince George County for the dates listed below. Please note: for successful applicants there will be an additional hunt fee of \$50/season to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail hunt fee.

More information:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/jamesriver/hunting.html> or (804) 829-9020.

Hunt dates archery: October 6-27, 2007 (except Sundays)

Application due: August 31, 2007

Radford Army Ammunition Plant Deer Hunts

Series # 211

Hunt quality white-tailed deer at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP) in Pulaski County. Bow hunting and shotgun hunting are allowed. Hunters and the day they will hunt are selected by computer drawing. Applications are limited to one hunter per year. The application is found on page 68. A list of "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ's) about the Radford Hunt is posted at www.dgif.virginia.gov; go to Hunting, Quota Hunts. **New! Applicants who are drawn to hunt will be required to submit documentation of a background check by local law enforcement to the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. See FAQs for details.**

Hunt dates archery: October 20, November 3

Hunt dates shotgun: November 17, 24, 28, and December 1, 5, 8

Applications due: August 31, 2007

Multi-Species WMA Hunts

Cavalier and Dismal Swamp Tract WMA Hunts (formerly Dismal Swamp WMA)

Series # 301

Hunt white-tailed deer and any other legal game species in season during the General Deer Firearm season in the City of Chesapeake. A total of 40 hunters are selected for each set of hunt dates. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. No center fire rifles permitted. Note: The Dismal Swamp Tract of the Cavalier Wildlife Management Area is a separate parcel of land and not to be confused with the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Hunt dates firearm: October 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, 22-27, October 29, November 3, Nov. 5-10, 12-17, 19-24, 26-30.

Featherfin WMA

Series # 302

Hunt any game species in season on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. A total of 14 hunters are selected for each set of hunt days. Each successful applicant will be allowed one guest. Hunter quota restrictions do not apply on open hunting season dates other than those listed below. A special 4-pt. antler rule is posted and applies during all open deer seasons.

Hunt dates: Nov. 3-7, Nov. 8-10, Nov. 12-14, Nov. 15-17, Nov. 19-21, Nov. 22-24, Nov. 26-28, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 3-5, Dec. 6-8, Dec. 10-12, Dec. 13-15, Dec. 17-19, Dec. 20-22, Dec. 24-26, Dec. 27-29, Dec. 31-Jan. 2, Jan. 3-5.

Applications due: August 31, 2007

2008 Spring Turkey Hunts

Featherfin WMA Series # 401

Hunt spring gobblers on the Featherfin WMA in Appomattox, Buckingham, and Prince Edward Counties. A total of 6 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring 1 guest. April 5, 2008 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 5th. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 5th -May 17th.

Hunt dates: April 5, 2008 (Youth Day), April 12-16 (no Sunday hunting), April 17-19, April 21-23, April 24-26, April 28-30, May 1-3.

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Amelia WMA Series # 402

Hunt spring gobblers on the Amelia WMA in Amelia County. A total of 3 hunters are selected to hunt during each set of hunt days. Successful applicants will be entitled to bring 1 guest. April 5, 2008 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 5th. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 5th -May 17th.

Hunt dates: April 5, 2008 (Youth Day), April 12-16 (no Sunday hunting), April 17-19, April 21-23, April 24-26, April 28-30, May 1-3.

Applications due: October 5, 2007

Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts Series #403

Hunt spring gobblers on the GATR Tract of Mockhorn Island WMA, Northampton County. The GATR Tract is the mainland part of Mockhorn Island WMA on the Eastern Shore. A total of one hunter is selected for each hunt segment. Each successful applicant will be allowed two guests. April 5, 2008 is a youth turkey hunting day. Adults are not permitted to carry firearms on this day. To apply for the YOUTH HUNTING DAY applicants must be licensed adults 18 years old or older. The successful applicant may chaperone one youth 15 years of age or younger on April 8. Hunter quota restrictions are not in effect from May 5-May 17.

Hunt dates: April 7 (Youth Day), April 12-16 (no Sunday hunting), April 17-19, April 21-23, April 24-26, April 28-30, May 1-3.

Applications due: October 5, 2007.

Bear

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Series #501

Shotgun (slugs only) hunting for black bears on Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in designated areas of the Virginia portion of the refuge for the dates listed below. A total of 50 hunters will be selected to hunt. Each hunter will be allowed to bring one guest. A maximum harvest limit of 20 bears is imposed on this hunt. Please note: for successful applicants and their guests there will be an additional hunt fee of: \$50 for each hunter (permit holder \$50 and guest \$50) to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Successful applicants will be notified by U.S. mail on where to mail the hunt fee.

Hunt dates: November 30, December 1, 2007

Application due: October 6, 2007

Small Game

Dove

New Kent Forestry Center Dove Hunts Series #601

Hunt doves on designated fields at the Department of Forestry Center in Providence Forge. Hunt dates are opening day, Labor Day and the second Saturday of the dove season. Twenty hunters will be randomly selected for each hunt date. Hunts start at 12:00 noon and end at 5:00 p.m. Selected hunters may bring one guest. Dogs are allowed.

Hunt dates: TBA

Application due: August 1, 2007

NOTE: For information on Agency Quota Hunts go to: www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Hunting, Quota Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.



©Bill Lea

2007-2008 Managed Hunts and Workshops

The Department's Managed Hunts are generally by on-site random drawings or by application through the local Regional Wildlife Office. Hunting opportunities are provided on various Department Wildlife Management Areas. For information on Managed Hunts, go to the Agency Web site at: www.dgif.virginia.gov, select Managed Hunts.

Waterfowl

Hog Island WMA September Waterfowl Hunts

Hunt resident Canada geese and teal when in season each Saturday for half a day on Hog Island WMA in Surry County. A total of 30 hunters are selected each morning of the hunt. The hunt is restricted to youths (15 years of age and under) and each youth must be accompanied by a licensed adult (only the youth may carry a firearm). There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Saturdays.

Hunt dates: TBA

Drawing begins promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Hog Island-Youth Waterfowl Day

This is an opportunity for 30 youth (15 years of age and under) to hunt waterfowl on the Hog Island WMA in Surry County. The Department in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited will host a youth waterfowl hunting day on October (to be announced Sept. 1, 2007, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. All youth hunters are to be registered for this event. To register, contact the Hog Island WMA after September 1, 2007 at 757 / 357 - 5224. Activities include retriever and rocket net demonstrations. There are no blinds or decoys provided for these hunts. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt date: TBA

Hunters to arrive before 5:00 a.m.

Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge - Youth Waterfowl Day

Youths 15 years old and younger are invited to apply for hunting permits at 4 licensed blind locations on the Cow Island Unit of Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Poquoson. Selected applicants must be accompanied by an adult that has a hunting license. Only youths may hunt and carry a shotgun. Hunting parties of up to 3 people (two adults/one youth or one adult/two youth) and one retrieving dog are allowed. Participants must provide their own boat access to the refuge, decoys, and hunting gear. The nearest boat launch access to the hunting area is from the Rens Road Public Boat Ramp in Poquoson. Call 804-829-9020 after 8 a.m. on Tuesday, October 2nd to register. Only the first 4 requests will be accepted.

Hunt Date: TBA

Phone Registration Begins: 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Princess Anne WMA Float Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

Hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl (during the October waterfowl season) on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's 51 float blind stakes are available to float blind hunters on a first come, first served. Hunters are not allowed to tie float blinds to stakes before 5:00 a.m. Half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting allowed on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays. It is recommended that each hunting party visit the hunting area prior to the season to locate boat access, blind stakes, and scout the area in general. You must be familiar with the area to locate the blind stakes before shooting time. Dogs are allowed and recommended.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates:

September Geese: TBA

September Teal: TBA

October Waterfowl: TBA (No Sunday Hunting)

Hunters may not tie up to blind stakes until 5:00 a.m.



Lee Walker

Youth hunters at the Hog Island Waterfowl Youth Day.

Princess Anne WMA Stationary Blind September Canada Goose/Teal Hunts and October Waterfowl

This is an opportunity to hunt September Canada geese/teal and waterfowl during the October waterfowl season on the Princess Anne WMA in Virginia Beach. The area's four blinds will be first come, first served. Three-person parties can enjoy a half-day (until 1:00 p.m.) hunting on Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays. Hunters are required to park in the designated parking area off Munden Road.

Hunt days: Opening Day, Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and State Holidays.

Hunt dates:

September Geese: TBA

September Teal: TBA

October Waterfowl: TBA (No Sunday Hunting)

Hunters may not occupy blinds before 5:00 a.m.

Princess Anne WMA Late Snow Goose Hunts

This is an opportunity for float blind hunters to hunt snow geese at the Princess Anne WMA after the general duck season. The Princess Anne blind stakes and impoundments at Back Bay are available for snow goose hunting after the general duck season. These hunts will be permitted after the general duck season and will be on a first come, first served basis. Daily hunting times will be 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.

Season dates: TBA

Princess Anne WMA - Youth Waterfowl Day

Float blind stakes will be open on a first come, first served basis to youths 15 years or younger when accompanied by an adult.

The Department will host a youth waterfowl hunting day in October (to be announced September 1, 2007, see Agency Web site). Only youths may hunt and carry a firearm. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult. Depending upon impoundment conditions and number of participants there may be an option to use blinds on Beasley and Whitehurst tracts. This will be coordinated at the Trojan club house at 5:00 a.m. on the hunt day.

Hunt day: TBA

Hunters to arrive promptly at 5:00 a.m.

Hunting Workshops - Deer

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a Generations Deer Hunting Workshop on the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Prince William County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Fredericksburg Regional Office at (540) 899-4169.

Workshop date: TBA



©Ralph Hensley

Hunting Workshops-Squirrel

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host a squirrel hunting workshop on the C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Fauquier County. For registration information on workshop dates and times, contact the Fredericksburg Regional Office at (540) 899-4169.

Workshop date: TBA

NOTE: For information on Managed Hunts go to the Agency Web site: www.dgif.virginia.gov; select Hunting, Managed Hunts.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reserves the right to manage hunter access and hunter use on Department-owned and controlled lands as deemed appropriate.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

2007 RADFORD ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT DEER HUNT

APPLICANT

Fill in all fields. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please print clearly.
If non-1st time hunter, make sure name is identical to previous years.

Last	First	M.I.
Address		
City	State	Zip Code

DAYTIME PHONE#:

DATE OF BIRTH:
(REQUIRED)

EVENING PHONE#:

KEY NUMBER:
(appears on last year's
drawing results letter)

EMAIL ADDRESS:

* Not required for 1st time applicants.

CO-APPLICANT

Last	First	M.I.
Address		
City	State	Zip Code

DAYTIME PHONE#:

DATE OF BIRTH:
(REQUIRED)

EVENING PHONE#:

KEY NUMBER:
(appears on last year's
drawing results letter)

EMAIL ADDRESS:

* Not required for 1st time applicants.

STANDS FOR MOBILITY IMPAIRED: There are a limited number of wheelchair accessible stands.

☐ I am mobility impaired and interested in applying for one of these stands.

☐ I will be accompanied by a non-hunting assistant

Assistant's name _____ Assistant's Date of Birth _____

APPLY ONLINE
www.vaquotahunts.com
IT'S FAST! IT'S EASY!

WEAPON CHOICE

Check only one:

☐ SHOTGUN

☐ ARCHERY*

Nov. 17, 24, 28, Dec. 1, 5, 8

Oct. 20, Nov. 3

* QUALIFICATION REQUIRED - SKILLS TEST

RULES & REGULATIONS: (PLEASE READ)

The New River Unit of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant is a 2,800 acre area managed for quality white-tailed deer. **This year's hunting dates will be October 20, and November 3 for archery, and November 17, November 24, November 28, December 1, December 5, and December 6 for shotgun.** The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries uses a computer drawing to select individuals and the day they will hunt. There are three ways to apply for the Radford Hunt: 1) On-line at www.vaquotahunts.com, 2) toll-free at 1-877-VAHUNTS (1-877-824-8687), or 3) by mail:

1 Fill out this application
Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

2 Include a \$10.00 application fee
Money order, personal, or cashier's check made out to CyberData, Inc.
Fee is non-refundable.

3 and mail to:
Virginia Quota Hunts
c/o CyberData, Inc.
P.O. Box 9009
Hicksville, NY 11802

Your application must be received on or before August 31, 2007 to be included in the drawing.

- ▶ One application per applicant/coapplicant. Submitting more than one application will not increase your chances of being drawn.
- ▶ Applicants must be at least 12 years of age. Successful applicants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult possessing a valid hunting license. Adults accompanying applicants under 18 will not be allowed to hunt.
- ▶ Successful applicants will be notified through mail or email by October 1. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive notification of the drawing results.
- ▶ Antlerless deer are the only legal game, except during either sex hunts. In order to qualify to apply for a drawing to participate in an either-sex hunt, an individual's previous hunt must have been an antlerless hunt.
- ▶ Hunt applicants may apply individually or with a coapplicant on the same application. When applying with a coapplicant for an either-sex hunt, both applicants' most recent hunt at RAAP must have been for antlerless deer. When applying with a coapplicant for any hunt, standing for the drawing will be based on the lower number of preference points of the two applicants.
- ▶ Successful applicants must possess all appropriate VA hunting license(s). All Federal & State game laws are applicable.
- ▶ All shooting will be done from elevated stands. Hunters must remain within 50 yards of stand unless accompanied by a VDGF representative.
- ▶ For archery hunting, bow must be capable of propelling a broadhead arrow at least 125 yards. Broadhead arrow points must be at least 7/8 inch wide. Broadheads must be covered with quiver. A maximum of four (4) arrows will be allowed. All archery hunters selected will be required to qualify prior to hunting by shooting two (2) of three (3) arrows into a target 9 inches in diameter at 20 and 30 yard distances from a stand elevated 14 feet above the ground. **THOSE WHO DO NOT QUALIFY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HUNT.** Dates and locations for qualifying will be furnished to successful applicants.
- ▶ Shotgun hunters will be required to wear a blaze orange cap and vest or jacket. Only slugs will be allowed. Shotguns must be 20 gauge or larger. A maximum of three (3) shells will be allowed. Only factory loaded shells are permitted. Scopes may be used on shotguns.
- ▶ No smoking, lighters, matches, or other spark producing devices are permitted.
- ▶ All persons entering the installation to hunt will be subject to search.
- ▶ Transportation to and from stands will be provided. Privately owned vehicles will not be allowed on the installation.
- ▶ **New!** Applicants who are drawn to hunt will be required to submit a background check by local law enforcement to the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. See FAQs for details.
- ▶ Answers to questions about the hunt can be found on our website at www.dgif.virginia.gov or by calling VDGF Blacksburg Office at (540) 961-8304.
- ▶ We reserve the right to alter or close the hunting season or to close any zone.

This program received Federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to the office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, VA 22203.



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

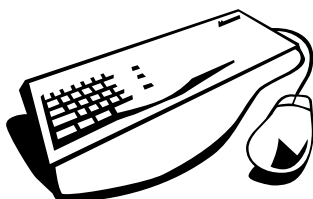
2007 - 2008 HUNTING SEASON

QUOTA HUNTS



APPLY ONLINE

IT'S
**fast
&
easy!**



<http://www.vaquotahunts.com>

Apply online for the 2007-2008 Quota Hunts. It's the fastest and easiest way! Application fee by credit card payment only. On the internet, go to: <http://www.vaquotahunts.com>. NOTE: Applications will be accepted until close of business on the due date specified for that particular hunt.

or APPLY BY MAIL

1 SELECT HUNTS TO APPLY FOR

Check the boxes of the hunts you want to apply for and specify your hunt day preference. Indicate if you are willing to accept any hunt day in the event you do not win for your hunt day preference. You may apply for each hunt only one time. Duplicate entries for the same hunt will be disqualified. You may apply more than once for hunts 205, 207, & 208 but not for the same day and you must fill out separate applications and pay the application fee each time.

*I will accept
any date*

#	TITLE	HUNT DAY PREF.	Y	N	ZONE/TRACK PREF.	APPLIC. DUE
WATERFOWL						
<input type="checkbox"/> 101	Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA)			<input type="checkbox"/>	Zone/Track Preference not applicable for these hunts	10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 102	Princess Anne WMA Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 103	Dutch Gap Conservation Area Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 104	Tundra Swan Permit			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 105	Lake Orange Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 106	Dick Cross WMA Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 107	Princess Anne WMA Floating Blind Stake Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 108	Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
DEER						
<input type="checkbox"/> 201	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Archery)			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 202	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Muzzleloader)			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 203	Hog Island WMA Deer Hunts (Firearms)			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 204	Mockhorn Island WMA Deer Hunts (Muzzleloader)			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 205	Back Bay Natl Wildlife Refuge, False Cape St. Park Deer & Hog Hunt ¹			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 206	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Archery) ²	Oct. 6 - Nov. 2				8/31/2007
	<input type="checkbox"/> I plan on bringing a buddy with me to hunt					
<input type="checkbox"/> 207	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Muzzleloader) ³			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 208	Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Firearms) ³			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 209	Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (Firearms) ³			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 210	James River National Wildlife Refuge (Archery) ²	Oct. 6 - Oct. 27				8/31/2007
MULTI-SPECIES WMA HUNTS						
<input type="checkbox"/> 301	Cavalier & Dismal Swamp Tract WMA Hunts (formerly dismal swamp wma)			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 302	Featherfin WMA			<input type="checkbox"/>		8/31/2007
2007 SPRING TURKEY HUNTS						
<input type="checkbox"/> 401	Featherfin WMA			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 402	Amelia WMA			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
<input type="checkbox"/> 403	Mockhorn Island WMA Spring Turkey Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/5/2007
BEAR						
<input type="checkbox"/> 501	Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge	Nov. 30 & Dec. 1		<input type="checkbox"/>		10/6/2007
SMALL GAME						
<input type="checkbox"/> 601	New Kent Forestry Center Dove Hunts			<input type="checkbox"/>		10/6/2007

For winning applicants of certain hunts there will be an additional hunt fee either payable by mail in advance of the hunt or payable on the day of the hunt. Information on additional payments will be sent via US Mail with the winning applicants' package. See footnotes for corresponding fees.

¹ \$10.00 payable on the day of the hunt

² \$50 for the season payable by mail in advance of the hunt

³ \$10.00 payable by mail

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE ➤



DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

2007 - 2008 HUNTING SEASON QUOTA HUNTS



APPLY BY MAIL (continued)

2 CALCULATE FEES

OF HUNTS SELECTED X \$7.50 (each) = \$

A **non-refundable** application fee of \$7.50 per hunts applies. Make check payable to **CyberData, Inc.**

3 ENTER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Fill in all fields. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Please print clearly.

APPLICANT NAME:

Last First M.I.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street
City State Zip Code

Daytime Phone#

Evening Phone#

Email Address

DATE OF BIRTH:

2007-2008 HUNTING LIC#-(REQUIRED)

4 MAIL APPLICATION (WITH FEE) TO:

Virginia Quota Hunts
c/o CyberData, Inc.
P.O. Box 9009
Hicksville, New York 11802

IMPORTANT: Include a **non-refundable** application fee of \$7.50 for **each** hunt applied for. Make check payable to: **CyberData, Inc.**

All winning applicants will be notified by mail or email of their drawing result. All permits are **non-transferable**. Guest(s) must be accompanied by the permit holder.

Application by Phone: Available Monday - Friday (9:30 am - 4:30 pm EST) Call 1-877-VAHUNTS

Public Ranges

by Glen Askins, Regional Wildlife Biologist

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has public sighting-in ranges available at the Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) listed below. These ranges were built to provide facilities for sportsmen to properly sight-in their firearms before going afield during hunting seasons. All Department public sighting-in ranges are handicapped accessible. Range rules and hours of operation are prominently posted at each range to promote shooting safety and proper care of the facilities. No reservations are required and there are no fees. Shooters are limited to one hour of shooting when range is full. Be sure to bring your own paper targets, cardboard backing, clothespins and tape. Shooters are encouraged to help maintain the ranges by packing-out their target materials and brass for proper disposal off site. Specific hours and dates of operation, range rules, scheduled closures, travel directions and other information is posted on the Agency Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

NOTE: The Department reserves the right to manage use and access of these facilities as deemed appropriate. These facilities are subject to emergency closures.

Also noted below are shooting ranges found on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Department Sighting-In Ranges

Amelia Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench positions from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets; area for clay bird shooting (bring own thrower and targets); and archery range. Pistol shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. Range is closed on Mondays unless otherwise posted. For information contact Forest Regional Office: 434/525-7522.

Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area: Ten covered bench shooting positions from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting are prohibited. Dates of operation and closure have changed from 2006. In addition, pistol shooting is no longer permitted. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Charles City Regional Office; 804 / 829 - 6580.

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. Snow and ice may result in temporary range closures in January, February and March. For information contact: Marion Regional Office; 276 / 783- 4860.

Gathright Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench - rest stations from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March

31. With the exception of state holidays the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Verona Regional Office; 540 / 248- 9360.

C. F. Phelps Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench-rest stations from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact: Fredericksburg Regional Office; 540 / 899-4169.

White Oak Mountain Wildlife Management Area: Six covered bench positions from 25-100 yards for rifle, muzzleloader and shotgun patterning at stationary paper targets. Pistol and clay target shooting is prohibited. General dates of operation are September 1 to March 31. With the exception of state holidays the range will be closed on Mondays for maintenance. For information contact Forest Regional Office: 434/525-7522.

National Forest Shooting Ranges

The **Blacksburg Shooting Range** offers two facilities: an 18-position rifle/pistol for firing at stationary targets and a single position shotgun (trap) range. For information contact: Eastern Divide Ranger District, 540 / 552- 4641.

The **Bath County Shooting Range** has 10 covered bench rests for shooting 50-100 yards. Pistols, rifles and shotguns are allowed at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: Warm Springs Ranger District, 540 / 839-2521.

The **Hite Hollow Shooting Range** is available for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting at stationary targets. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: North River Ranger District, 540 / 432-0187.

The **Low Moor Shooting Range** provides 6 covered rifle bench rests and 3 covered pistol bench rests. Features include rifle range - stationary targets at 50 and 100 yards, and pistol range - stationary targets at 25 yards. Moving targets are prohibited. For information contact: James River Ranger District, 540 / 962-2214.

The **Pott's Slope Shooting Range** is handicapped-accessible with a covered shooting area. There are nine lanes for rifle and pistol use with stationary targets at 25, 50 and 100 yards. For information contact: Eastern Divide Ranger District 540 / 552-4641.

The **West Side Shooting Range** provides shooting lanes of various lengths with covered shooting benches. For more information contact: North River Ranger District, 540 / 432-0187.

The **Wythe Shooting Range** includes six 25 yard lanes and four 100-yard lanes. For more information contact: Eastern Divide Ranger District, 540 / 552-4641.

When visiting the National Forest, please remember firearms may be discharged for target practice only at established shooting ranges. Discharging a firearm in a developed recreation site is dangerous and prohibited. For more information contact: the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Headquarters at 516 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA. 24019, or call 540 / 265-5100.

Wildlife Habitat Programs

Landowners are often interested in increasing certain wildlife species on their properties. For most wildlife species, a habitat management plan will need to be implemented. The Department has many publications that are a great resource when determining how to manage for your species of interest. Department biologists are also available to assist you and can be contacted at any of the Department's offices. Biologists can often direct you to a program that will offer financial assistance.

CRP/CREP

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers a variety of programs that can benefit many wildlife species by providing habitat on private lands. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offer 10-15 year agreements with annual per acre payments and 50% cost share to establish the habitat. Its Virginia Enhancement (CREP) focuses on streamside plantings and protection of buffers on the lower portions of ag fields with similar agreements and cost share. For information on these programs, contact your nearest USDA service center.

Wetland Restoration

There are several programs that offer technical and cost share assistance for wetland restoration. Because there are usually permitting and other technical considerations, you should start by contacting the Department's Wetlands Project Leader at 804-843-5962.

Seed Programs

Members of conservation organizations such as Quail Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation may be able

to obtain certain food plot seed at discount rates. Contact your local chapter officers for details.

There is a list of suppliers of hard-to-find plant materials on the Department's Web site, as well as a host of other information that you might find helpful.

Virginia's Landowner Incentive Program

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners to protect and restore at risk wildlife in our waterways. Through LIP, Department biologists design stream restoration projects that owners can implement on their land. It pays landowners 75% of conservation project costs to install and maintain stream restoration and riparian buffer projects on their property for a minimum of 10 years. LIP projects are undertaken to improve degrading lands, reduce sediment in streams, and improve critical habitats for wildlife. For more information, contact your nearest Department office and remember by implementing sound conservation practices today, you can guarantee a cleaner world for your children and grandchildren.

Habitat At Home©

The Department offers a program for homeowners to assist them in improving their properties for wildlife called Habitat At Home©. This program offers information on improving habitat around homes. Call 804-367-6989 for more information.

Working Together For Our Wildlife

The Department is pleased and honored to have the support of numerous non-profit conservation organizations that are dedicated to wildlife conservation and education. Through the involvement of thousands of citizen volunteers, as well as a financial commitment to a variety of agency projects, organizations such as the ones listed below have supported wildlife conservation efforts that benefit all Virginia sportsmen and women. We encourage everyone to support these organizations and to become active participants in one or more of these groups.

Ducks Unlimited
www.ducks.org

Izaak Walton League of America
www.iwla.org

National Wild Turkey Federation
www.vanwtf.com

Quail Unlimited
www.qu.org

Quality Deer Management
www.qdma.com

Ruffed Grouse Society
www.ruffedgrousesociety.org

Safari Club International Foundation
www.safariclub.org

Southwest Virginia Coon Hunters Federation

Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia
www.swmnv.com

Traditional Bowhunters of Virginia

United Eastern Virginia Coon Hunters Association

Virginia Bear Hunters Association
www.virginiabearhunters.org

Virginia Bowhunters Association
www.geocities.com/~vbarchers

Virginia Deer Hunters Association
www.virginiadeerhunters.org

Virginia Peninsula Sportsmen's Association
www.vpsa.org

Virginia Trappers Association
www.virginiatrappers.org

Virginia Waterfowlers Association
www.vawfa.org

Waterfowl USA
www.waterfowlusa.org

Western Virginia Deer Hunters Association

What Landowners Should Know

Finding responsible hunters can be frustrating for some landowners, especially if they are absentee or do not hunt themselves. There are benefits of having responsible hunters included as an important part of the landowner's wildlife management plan. Information on locating responsible hunters can be found in several ways. On page 72 is a list of sportsman conservation organizations that are dedicated and reputable partners with VDGIF in promoting scientific management, ethics, safety and opportunities for youth, women and other non-traditional participants in outdoor sports. Visit their Web sites and contact statewide officers or local chapters and representatives for leads on members who would welcome the opportunity to hunt.

There are many in-kind benefits of such relationships including road maintenance, habitat improvement, security and safety. Reputable hunt clubs are also helpful, and lease fees can offset property taxes. Local civic groups like Ruritan or 4-H Clubs, sporting goods shops and other landowners such as participants in Tree Farm or Stewardship Programs can be sources for contacts.

Liability

Concern about legal liability for recreationists prevents some landowners from permitting hunting on their property. However, the Virginia General Assembly has addressed this concern in Virginia Code Section 29.1-509. Amended in 1982, this law exempts

landowners who provide recreational opportunities to the public from liability for injury or damages provided:

- landowner does not charge a fee.
- there is no gross negligence or "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use or structure" on the property.

The property owner should eliminate obvious hazards such as open wells and falling down buildings, or fence-off and identify with warning signs any hazard that cannot be eliminated, such as a rock quarry. The landowner may wish to consider insuring the property subject to casualty and obtain comprehensive liability insurance. These are relatively inexpensive additions to standard and homeowner insurance policies. Sportsmen can be asked to help provide financial or other support in return for permission to use the lands.

Fundamentally, sportsmen are responsible for their own safety and for any damages they cause to the property of others. Lease agreements and individual permit cards (see below) provided in this Digest include codes of ethical conduct while the holders are on the property. Furthermore, landowners can require sportsmen to show proof of insurance. Sportsman insurance is available through insurance companies and national sportsman organizations.

**Report Wildlife violations on the
DGIF crime line by calling:
1-800-237-5712.**

AFFIDAVIT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.



PERMISSION TO

Hunt, fish, trap, camp, etc.

I hereby grant the person named on the reverse side permission to use my property for the above purpose on the following dates:

Signed _____
Landowner

AFFIDAVIT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.



PERMISSION TO

Hunt, fish, trap, camp, etc.

I hereby grant the person named on the reverse side permission to use my property for the above purpose on the following dates:

Signed _____
Landowner

Hunting on Private Property

Trespass violations, posting property and access issues are all concerns affecting landowner's considerations for allowing hunting. Detailed information on leasing, liability and posting can be found in Extension Publication # 420-035 entitled "A Landowner's Guide to Working With Sportsmen in Virginia." Available on Web at www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/forestry/.html

Hunters are reminded that **it is unlawful to hunt on private property without the permission of the landowner** and hunters must have the permission of the landowner to track or retrieve wounded game on private property.

On Posted Property, it is unlawful to hunt without written permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2500 and/or 12 months in jail.

Landowners may post their property by any of the following methods:

- Using a paint mark of aluminum color paint consisting of a vertical line at least two inches in width and at least eight inches in length, no less than three feet and not more than six feet from the ground or normal water surface and visible when approaching the property.
- Signs which specifically prohibit hunting, fishing or trespassing on the property.

Property not posted:


It is unlawful to hunt any unposted property without permission of the landowner and is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.




Ron Messina



Mel White

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Auto License No. _____
Driver's License No. _____
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.
Signature _____
<div>SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:</div> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respect the landowner's property, going only where he designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship. <div>Signature _____</div>

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Auto License No. _____
Driver's License No. _____
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.
Signature _____
<div>SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:</div> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Respect the landowner's property, going only where he designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship. <div>Signature _____</div>

Waterfowl/Migratory Game Birds



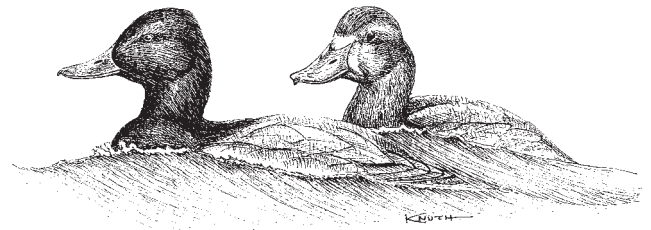
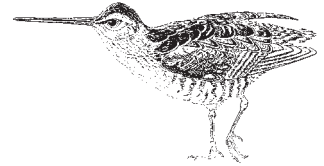
Seasons and bag limits for ducks, geese, brant, swans, doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, and other migratory game birds must conform to the frameworks established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In June each year the Department establishes the seasons on dove, woodcock, snipe, rail, September Canada goose, and September teal. In August seasons and bag limits are established for ducks, geese, brant, and swan. Separate brochures will be published and are supplements to this hunting and trapping digest.

All migratory game bird hunters (whether licensed or exempt from being licensed) who plan to hunt doves, waterfowl, rails, woodcock, snipe, coot, gallinules or moorhens in Virginia must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is required each year, and a new registration number is needed for each hunting season. The HIP registration is free. To obtain a new HIP number, migratory game bird hunters can register on line at www.vahip.com. This is the easiest and fastest way to register. Or call toll free 1-888-788-9772 to obtain your HIP number by phone.

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Virginia persons 16 years and older, unless licensed exempt, must have a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. The Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is mandatory in Virginia. Every person issued the stamp must carry it on his person when hunting or taking any migratory waterfowl. The Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is valid from July 1–June 30, annually. The annual fee for the stamp is \$10.00. All persons 16 years and older are also required to have a current Federal Duck Stamp. Federal duck stamps are available at most Post Offices and at the Department Headquarters in Richmond, VA.

Migratory Game Bird hunters are reminded to report all bird bands to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Over 350,000 ducks, geese, and swans are banded each year in North America of which nearly 3,000 migratory game birds are banded here in the Commonwealth. Banding is an important tool for wildlife managers and one where hunters play a vital role. By reporting bands, information can be gathered on migration, assessing harvest regulations and population estimation. Information from banding studies has helped biologist develop specific management strategies including special hunting seasons, such as those for resident Canada geese. The reporting of bands is now even easier. In addition to the 1-800-327-BAND, bands can now be reported through a new online reporting Web page at <http://www.report-band.gov/>. Please help us help you manage migratory game birds in Virginia by reporting banded birds.

More information on waterfowl and migratory game bird quota hunts and managed hunts offered by the Department are on pages 62–67 of this digest.



The New 2008 Virginia Wildlife Calendar Is Now Available!

It's time again to purchase your copy of the 2008 Virginia Wildlife Calendar, one of the most informative and beautiful wildlife calendars in the country. No other calendar will give you the best times to go fishing and hunting, unique natural resource information that will amaze and educate you, and spectacular wildlife photographs that give you an up-close look at Virginia's incredible wildlife.

The 2008 Virginia Wildlife Calendars are \$10.00 each.

Make checks payable to: *Treasurer of Virginia* and send to Virginia Wildlife Calendar, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA. 23230-1104.

If you would like to use your VISA or MasterCard you can order online at www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Quantities are limited so don't wait—order now!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does a non-resident youth under the age of 12 need to purchase a hunting license in order to hunt in Virginia?

A: Yes. Non-resident hunters under the age of 12 are not exempt from purchasing a hunting license. The State does provide a youth non-resident hunting license at a significantly reduced fee. Any hunter under the age of 12 may purchase a hunting license without taking a hunter education course. A properly licensed adult must accompany and supervise, within sight, any youth hunter under age 12.

Q: My 11 year old resident son bought a hunting license although he was not required to have one. May he hunt alone since he has his own hunting license?

A: No. A properly licensed adult must accompany and supervise, within sight, any youth hunter under age 12.

Q: How much time do I have to check in a deer or spring turkey when using the telephone call in check system?

A: When you kill any animal that requires checking, you must check it upon vehicle transport of the carcass or at the conclusion of legal hunting hours, whichever occurs first and without unnecessary delay.

Q: My 11 year old son who does not have a hunting license killed a deer. Does he have to check it or should I check it for him with my license?

A: All hunters, youth included, must check their own game (deer, bear, turkey). It is unlawful to check game that someone else has killed. A person exempt from license requirements may check game by telephone using the last four digits of their social security number as their license number. A person exempt from license requirements may check game at a Big Game Check Station by advising the station operator that he/she is license exempt. Hunters exempt from purchasing a hunting license are exempt from validating their license upon killing a deer, bear or turkey, because they have no license.

Q: My 15 year old daughter killed an antlerless deer on a designated either sex day for our county. Is she still allowed to kill an antlerless deer on a non-designated either sex day under the Special Youth Antlerless Deer Regulation?

A: Yes. This special regulation allows youths age 15 and under to take one antlerless deer on a non-designated either sex day even if she has already taken an antlerless deer on a designated either sex day.

Q: My friend and I plan to hunt spring turkey together. If I were to kill one first, may I assist him in calling a turkey for him the same day?

A: Yes. You may assist in calling a turkey for a companion hunter if your firearm/bow is unloaded. After obtaining a season bag

limit (Fall or Spring) a hunter may assist another hunter, only if not in possession of a firearm or bow, when the hunt commences.

Q: Do I need a hunting license just to accompany someone who is hunting, even if I don't carry a weapon?

A: If you are along strictly to observe, then you do not need a license. However, if you assist the hunter then you would need a license appropriate for whatever game animal that is being hunted.

Q: May I use a rifle to hunt deer in a county where I see nothing mentioned about use of a rifle for hunting deer in the Local Firearms Ordinances, Laws and Regulations Section on page 23?

A: Some cities and towns have local firearm ordinances that are not listed in this pamphlet. If a locality listed in the Local Firearms Ordinance Section is silent with respect to the use of a rifle for deer hunting, then the statewide requirements apply. If you are unsure, contact a local official for the jurisdiction where you plan to hunt.

Q: Can I hunt coyotes at night?

A: Yes. Coyotes are listed as "nuisance species," and the law states that nuisance species may be hunted at night.

Q: Can I hunt coyotes on Sunday?

A: No. Nuisance species are specifically prohibited from being hunted on Sundays.

Q: May I take a muzzleloader and a shotgun with me when deer hunting?

A: If hunting deer during the Special Muzzleloader Season, it is illegal to possess a shotgun. If hunting during the general firearms season for deer and the county being hunted does not specifically prohibit the use of muzzleloaders during general firearms season for deer, then both firearms can be carried and possessed in the field.

Q: I lost my hunter education certificate. Where may I obtain a duplicate certificate?

A: Call 1-877-486-8338.

Q: How close to a public road may I legally hunt?

A: It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow, or bow and arrow into, across, or within, the right-of-way of any public road. Some localities have additional restrictions on hunting near a public road, see Local Firearms Ordinances on page 23.

Q: How can I report a game law violation?

A: Law violations may be anonymously reported to 1-800-237-5712 or via e-mail at wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

Q: I purchased a Virginia lifetime hunting license two years ago and have since moved to North Carolina and am a resident there. I plan to hunt deer in Virginia this fall on private land. What licenses will I need?

A: Your lifetime hunting license is still valid. You will be required to purchase a Nonresident Bear, Deer, Turkey License and any other applicable non-resident licenses such as archery, cross-bow, or muzzleloader.

Q: Do you have a list of shooting preserves?

A: Yes. The Shooting Preserve list is found on the VDGIF Web site. The list can also be obtained by contacting the VDGIF Central Office, 804-367-1000.

Q: I know I don't need a hunting license to hunt on my own land, but what about the muzzleloader license, archery license, or any other licenses I am required to buy?

A: For those exempt from license requirements to hunt on family land, the only two license requirements are a Federal Waterfowl Stamp, if hunting waterfowl, and Bonus Deer Permits, to exceed the season bag limit for deer.

Q: Can I use a .22 caliber rifle or pistol to hunt turkeys?

A: Yes! You may use any caliber rifle or pistol to hunt during fall or spring turkey seasons, except where prohibited by local county/city ordinance (see page 23).

Q: My son purchased a "Youth Combination License" and later turned 16 during the hunting season. Is his license still valid following his 16th birthday?

A: Yes! His "Youth Combination License" is valid for the remainder of the current license year.

Q: May I use a muzzleloader or bow during the firearms deer season?

A: Yes, except where local ordinances prohibit their use. (See page 23 for Local Ordinances).

Q: I am a non-resident owning land and paying property taxes in Virginia. Am I entitled to purchase a resident hunting license?

A: No. However, non-resident landowners are not required to purchase a hunting license to hunt on their property in Virginia. (Refer to page 5, Hunting Licenses and Permits).

Q: May I sight in my gun or target practice on public land?

A: Target practice and sighting-in is allowed only on developed sighting-in ranges, which are located only on specific WMAs and National Forest Lands. (See page 71 for specific information).

Q: How close to a residence may I legally hunt?

A: There is no state law that prescribes a distance requirement. However, local county/city ordinances may require a specific distance. Contact a local county/city official for this information. Always use courtesy and commonsense.

Q: Are wildlife food plots and other plantings allowed under the new law that prohibits feeding deer from September 1 through January 6?

A: Yes, plantings of any type are legal. It is acceptable wildlife management to plant to provide enhanced food and cover for wildlife.

Q: Are attractant scents for deer considered bait?

A: No, scents are not ingested by the mouth or tongue as a food or salt.

Q: My compound bow has a device attached which will hold the string in the full draw position until released without me having to hold back the string with my arm. Is this bow considered a compound bow or crossbow for licensing purposes?

A: The bow configured in this manner would be considered to be a crossbow and, if used during an archery season, would require the hunter to have a crossbow license.

Q: My 13 year old son will be hunting on my property this hunting season. I know he does not need a hunting license while hunting my property but does he need to take the hunter safety course when hunting my property?

A: No. The son would not need to take the hunter safety course to hunt your property where he is license exempt. However, if he hunted on property other than your property where a hunting license would be required, then he would need to take a hunter safety class in order to purchase the license and hunt.

Q: My county prohibits the use of a rifle larger than a .22 rimfire. Can I use a .204 center fire rifle as it is a smaller caliber than a .22?

A: The .204 would not be legal in your county. The .22 rimfire designation restricts both the caliber and the powder load with the word rimfire. The .204 is a centerfire.

Q: May I hunt with a muzzleloader and a bow when the Archery and Muzzleloading seasons overlap?

A: No. If both the Archery and Muzzleloader seasons overlap, you may not have both weapons in your possession while hunting.

Q: The fall turkey season overlaps with the Muzzleloader Deer Season. I would like to carry a muzzleloader for deer and a shotgun for turkey. Can I carry both firearms since both seasons are open at the same time?

A: No. When the Muzzleloader Season is open you can not carry a shotgun and a muzzleloader at the same time in the field while hunting. In this case you could legally carry one or the other firearms but not both. The other firearm could be left in your vehicle until needed.

Hunters for the Hungry

Our 2007 Goal – 360,000 pounds
Will you help us reach our goal by donating venison
and/or dollars?

Hunters for the Hungry receives donated deer from successful hunters. Funds are raised to cover the costs of professional processing. The venison is distributed to the needy across the state.

This past season 356,054 pounds of venison was distributed. Over 3 million pounds or 12 million servings of venison have been distributed in Virginia since 1991.

Each \$40.00 contribution allows us to accept another deer. Every dollar donated aids our effort to combat hunger and promote the tradition of hunting. Hunters donating an entire deer are not required to pay any part of the processing fee.

Legislation was passed in 2003 in honor of Hunters for the Hungry founder, David Horne. The David Horne Hunger Relief Bill gives you the opportunity to donate \$2.00 to the Hunters for the Hungry program when you purchase your hunting license. One hundred percent of your donation will go to providing venison to the hungry.

You can make a difference to the hungry and to the future of hunting in Virginia. For additional information call 1-800-352-HUNT (4868), or e-mail: hunt4hungry@cs.com, or visit the Web site at www.h4hungry.org or write to P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA 24526.

☒ **\$2.00 DONATION -
HUNTERS FOR THE
HUNGRY**



Special Offer To Hunters

Subscribe to Virginia Wildlife Magazine

☐ 7 issues-\$7.00 ☐ 21 issues-\$21.00 (**Best Offer**) ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to the: *Treasurer of Virginia*

Send orders to: Virginia Wildlife Magazine, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230

or

call 1-800-710-9369 and mention code

J6HF

Sunrise and Sunset Timetable

Richmond, Virginia

Sunrise-sunset times below are Eastern Standard Time
Add one hour for Daylight Saving Time, if and when in use.

	JULY		AUG		SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUNE	
Day	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)
1	4:52	7:35	5:14	7:18	5:40	6:39	6:05	7:53	6:35	5:12	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:02	7:14	5:33	6:41	6:04	5:55	6:33	5:14	7:00	4:50	7:26
2	4:53	7:35	5:14	7:17	5:41	6:38	6:06	5:52	6:36	5:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:13	5:34	6:39	6:05	5:53	6:34	5:13	7:01	4:50	7:26
3	4:53	7:35	5:15	7:16	5:42	6:36	6:07	5:50	6:37	5:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:04	7:12	5:36	6:38	6:06	5:52	6:38	5:12	7:02	4:49	7:27
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Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times
to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

Location	Correction	Location	Correction
Newport News	-5 minutes	Bristol	+19 minutes
Norfolk	-5 minutes	Cape Charles	-6 minutes
Roanoke	+10 minutes	Charlottesville	+4 minutes
Tazewell	+16 minutes	Chincoteague	-8 minutes
Williamsburg	-3 minutes	Danville	+8 minutes
Winchester	+3 minutes	Fredericksburg	0 minutes

To Report Violations

call 1-800-237-5712 or
e-mail: wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

A game warden can also be reached by calling your local Sheriff's Office or Police Department. When reporting try to get as much information as possible, such as:

What happened.

Where did it happen; be as specific as possible

Who was involved; describe persons (names if known), vehicles (license numbers are crucial), and names of other witnesses.

When did it happen.

**Don't allow the actions of a few outlaws tarnish the
reputation of Virginia's sportsmen!**



www.dgif.virginia.gov